- **SIM**

Fr. Joaquin Bernas, SJ: 'Guru of destabilization' is gentle man of God

- **WORLD / A29**

Over 200 Nigerians pilfering oil burned beyond recognition in blast

- **TALK OF THE TOWN / A16**

Cultural bigotry spawns Pinoys' spoon wars in Canada

JOB Market

Over 1,000 job openings in Job Market today

'Am not grouchy, I just have the balls to say things'

PIRMI NYO AKONG BINABATO E BINOBOLA KO LANG KAYO!

By Armand N. Nocum

JUSTICE SECRETARY RAUL Gonzalez admits to having problems with kidney stones, but says this is not why he launches verbal attacks on critics of the Arroyo administration.

AM NOT/ A6

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Sunday

BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Sunday, May 14, 2006 ★★ 16 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 155 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Dads support moms with healing food, hands, heads

By Christian V. Esguerra

APPROPRIATELY, THE GROUP IS CALLED "TATAY."

And a typical scenario has young fathers rushing from office work to engage in a discussion of an unusual subject in man-talk—child-rearing.

Each holding a child on his lap, the men exchange stories on household situations (including their kids' first steps or first words) and generally

DADS/ A12

LIFE GOES ON. Against the backdrop of Mega Manila outlined by heavy rains and ominous clouds, scavengers brave the strong winds and a trek across jagged boulders at the breakwater in Bacoor, Cavite, to gather what treasures tropical storm Caloy had swept ashore for them to make a living—selling recyclable materials to junk shops.

REM ZAMORA

35 dead in Caloy's wake

Storm also hits Metro Manila hard; now in South China Sea

By PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

AT LEAST 35 PEOPLE WERE killed as storm Caloy ripped through the Philippines yesterday, battering boats at sea, stranding thousands of travellers, knocking out power lines and leaving behind a string of darkened cities and towns.

By nightfall, the third and biggest storm to enter the Philippine area this year had moved out to the South China Sea but its winds continued to hammer parts of the country.

About 28,000 people were affected in the Calabarzon, Bicol and Visayas regions.

Metro Manila was among the areas which suffered as "Caloy" hammered the metropolis with high winds and downed 77 power circuits of the Manila Electric Co. *(See story on Page A2.)*

Dr. Herman Nohayon, head of forecasting of the weather bureau Pagasa, told the INQUIRER that while "Caloy" had moved in over the South China Sea, its northwestward movement would cause its winds to still affect parts of Luzon.

"The eye of the storm actually passed through Mindoro island. The reason Metro Manila seemed to have been hard hit was because the storm winds went over the metropolis," Nohayon said.

In the single biggest disaster, 25 people drowned while three others were missing when the motorized outrigger M/B Mae Ann 5 sank less than a mile from the Masbate port at 2:30 a.m. last Friday.

Eighteen people survived the incident.

The Mae Ann was seeking cover from the storm when it collided with a motorized banca and was engulfed by big

35 DEAD/ A12

JOAN BONDOC

TO EVERYTHING THERE IS A SEASON. A time for summer, to frolic under the flame trees in a blaze of glory on the UP campus in Diliman. A time for the flowers to flame out and litter the landscape of a dying summer. And, soon, come the rainy days again.

Who's afraid of The Da Vinci Code?

Editor's Note: Aside from his usual involvement in public affairs, former senator Francisco Tatad reads, writes and corresponds with various specialists worldwide on philosophy, theology, Church history, Christian anthropology and public ethics. A published author and social critic, he sits on the executive and international boards of the World Youth Alliance in New York and the International Right to Life Federation in Cincinnati, Ohio. He has studied the structure and workings of the Church and Opus Dei, of which he is a member.

By Francisco S. Tatad

"THE DA VINCI CODE" BY DAN BROWN is now a much talked-about movie.

It is clearly fiction, and we should take it as such. But Sony Pictures, the producers, will not say so. And Brown will insist his "facts" are, indeed, facts.

We will assume the movie is faithful to the book. But not having seen the movie, we will have to talk about the book.

The thriller begins with the following claim:

"FACT:

"The Priory of Sion—a European secret society formed in 1099—is a real organization. In 1975 Paris's Bibliotheque Nationale discovered parchments known as Les Dossiers Secrets, identifying numerous numbers of the Priory of Sion, includ-

WHO'S/ A8

Girl leaves mother to be 'child of our times'

By TJ Burgonio

THROUGHOUT COLLEGE AT THE UNIversity of the Philippines in the late 1960s and even afterward, Molly stayed away from protest rallies.

Not that she detested mass actions, she said. It was just that she was more into meditation.

Thus, only her own convictions and spirituality prepared her for the day her own teenaged daughter Erika quit high school to go underground.

But Molly, a widow juggling her time between family and business, did not fall apart. She accepted Erika's decision and let her go, albeit with a heavy heart.

And thanks to regular meditation, she learned to accept Erika's long absences, broken only by lightning visits, for six years—and ultimately her daughter's death in Bicol on March 29, the 37th founding anniversary of the communist New People's Army.

Erika was only 20 then. She would have turned 21 last May 8.

"The day she joined the movement, she was no longer our daughter. She was the daughter of the society at large. She had a role to play in society," Molly, now 57, said in an interview at a coffee shop in Quezon City. She requested that she be identified only by her nickname.

"Remember the Kahlil Gibran saying,

GIRL/ A6

From stage to courtroom: The soprano's a judge

By Tarra V. Quismundo

IF THE COURTROOM WERE AN OPERA house, this judge would break into an aria.

Singing has been a life-saver for Judge Jenny Lind Aldecoa-Delorino of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 137, who made it to the front pages and prime time newscasts the past week when she rejected the justice department's rebellion case against the Batasan 5, former Sen. Gregorio Honasan and 40 others tagged in an armed uprising against the government.

"To be honest, I was a very reluctant judge... that's the truth. I don't think I'd be able to last in this job and keep mind, body and soul if it were not for my singing," said Delorino, now on her 18th year in the judiciary.

"I'd probably be a lesser person, if it was all just logic and intellectual exercise. That's why I need my music. That's what balances me as a person," said the judge, who was prodded into the law profession by her father, retired Justice Venancio Aldecoa Jr.

Be it on the concert stage, in church, at office gatherings or by herself, Delorino renders impassioned, show-stopping solos—an "indulgence" that has kept her centered amid a demanding career on the bench.

"As a judge, I learned to harden my heart. I had to suppress my emotions to remain objective. That's why I sing—that's my release. [When the song is happy,] I can laugh or when the song is sad or poignant, I can cry," said the judge, whose favorites include American opera singers Beverly Sills and Leontyne Price.

Last March, Delorino, with tenor Jonathan Badon, performed on stage at the Luce Auditorium of her alma mater, Silliman University. They sang Broadway hits and songs by American songwriter Cole Porter.

Born into a family of singers in Dumaguete City, 46-year-old Delorino has been singing before audiences big and small for as long as she can remember.

Her parents named her after Swedish nightingale Jenny Lind, the famed 19th century soprano who was so loved that an island, village and opera house in the United States were named in her honor.

Thanks to a musical family, singing came naturally to Delorino.

"There was music in the house all the time. After dinner, we'd gather in the living room. My sister would play the guitar, I would play the piano, and we would sing songs we liked," she narrated.

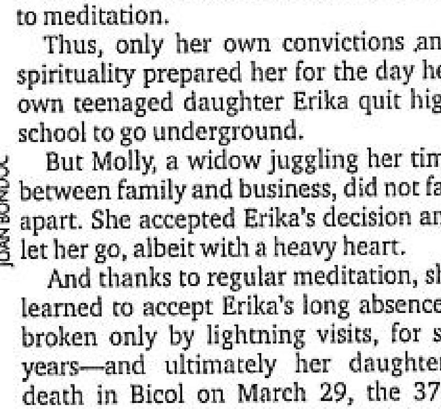
When she was a toddler, her late mother, Nelly, a music teacher, would make her stand on the desk and have her sing to her students.

Family time was spent singing and blending their voices. Delorino's father was the bass vocalist. Her eldest brother, the late Bebot, was the baritone, while the youngest, Michael, was the tenor.

Her mother was the mezzo-soprano, blending with elder sister Evelyn, who was the alto. On top of them all was Delorino, who was the family soprano.

"We sang as a full choir. Whenever we had visitors, we were ordered by our father

FROM STAGE/ A8



JUDGE JENNY LIND DELORINO: Music hath charms to soothe mind, body, soul.

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Mindoro, Lubang Island, Batangas, Cavite and Bataan will experience stormy weather. The rest of Western Luzon and Western Visayas will have rains and gusty winds. Coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of the country will be cloudy with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L. BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/05/14/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Stormy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Rains	Roxas	Stormy
Tuguegarao	Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Stormy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Stormy	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

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Second FRONT PAGE

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'Caloy' fells trees, billboards causing Metro-wide outages

By Abigail L. Ho

A FAIRLY WIDE AREA OF Metro Manila and several provinces suffered hours-long power blackouts yesterday as storm "Caloy" knocked out 77 Manila Electric Co. circuits.

Felled billboards and untrimmed trees striking electrical lines caused damage to 12 percent of Meralco's total number of power distributor circuits, resulting in brownouts in some areas within its franchise, Meralco vice president for corporate communication Elpi Cuna said.

In the Meralco North Sector, seven circuits were affected, including one in Plaridel, two in Balintawak and four in Valenzuela.

The Central Sector had the most number of damaged circuits at 39, including nine in Pasig, 18 in Manila, three in Alabang and nine in Rizal.

The South Sector had 31 damaged circuits, including 14 in Sta. Rosa, nine in Cavite and eight in San Pablo, Cuna said.

"We still have a lot of outages, but we're working as quickly as we can to restore these so we can bring power back to the affected areas," he said in a phone interview.

The Meralco franchise area includes Metro Manila, Rizal, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Quezon, Batangas and Pampanga.

As of press time, Meralco was still working to restore all the damaged lines.

Cuna said nothing was definite yet on how long the repairs would take to bring back power to all affected customers.

"The outages started happening shortly after midnight when the rains really poured and strong winds came," he said.

"We've already deployed extra personnel, including those from our North Sector, which is largely unaffected by the outages, to ensure that power will be restored at the soonest possible time."

"We'll be restoring major circuits first. Individual circuits will have to wait. We don't know yet what time we'll be able to finish all our repairs," he added.

Cuna blamed very tall trees that had been left untrimmed—causing their branches to strike power lines—as well as unregulated billboards along the South Luzon Expressway for causing much of the disruption.

Since nobody had reported how some trees in their areas had grown, the heavy rains and strong winds generated by "Caloy" had caused these trees to damage the lines, Cuna said.

More than 10 billboards along the SLEx's east-bound and west-bound lanes hit Meralco circuits, he said.

DOJ: New Batasan 5 case to show Reds killing Reds

By Armand N. Nocum

THE NEW REBELLION CASE AGAINST THE "Batasan 5" will open a Pandora's box of revelations on the bloody communist purges of the 1980s and may even explain the killings of leftist leaders today, according to Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez.

"This is a strong case. If you are looking for probable cause, you will find a lot of it here (*sobra-sobra*). The case will even solve the mystery behind the present killings," Gonzalez said in a telephone interview.

Justice prosecutors on Friday filed new rebellion charges against party-list Representatives Satur Ocampo, Teodoro Casiño, Joel Virador, Rafael Mariano and Liza Maza, former Sen. Gregorio Honasan and 40 others before the Makati Regional Trial Court.

They were accused of conspiring in a failed plot to overthrow President Macapagal-Arroyo using an assault force of rebel soldiers and communist guerrillas.

The new charges were filed a week after the Makati court dismissed earlier charges filed in March.

According to Gonzalez, the new information includes affidavits from relatives of the victims of the alleged Communist Party of the Philippines purges. Some of the respondents have been linked to the bloody killings, he said.

"If this case continues, the truth about these bloody purges will come out," Gonzalez said.

"If heard in court, that is quite an explosive testimony. Among those testifying are three major witnesses who are now placed under the witness protection program. We have to extricate them from the mountains and put them in safe houses," he said.

Gonzalez said the new complaint also included murder charges but this were deemed subsumed in the rebellion complaint.

He urged leftist and militant groups, the Commission on Human Rights and international groups demanding justice for the leftist leaders to join hands with the government in unearthing the truth about the purges.

"Since so much attention is being given to the killings of leftist leaders, it is time to look into their own killings. If we want to find out the truth and attain due process, let's do that," he said.

The military has claimed that the recent unsolved murders of leftist leaders may still be part of the cleansing process that the communist movement underwent throughout the 1980s and into the 1990s.

The Communist Party of the Philippines unleashed a wave of bloody purges that included "Oplan Kadena de Amor" in Southern Tagalog (1982), "Kampanyang Ahos" in Mindanao (1985-86), "Operation Missing Link" in Southern Tagalog (1988) and "Operation Olympia" (1988 to 1989).

Malacañang yesterday said the filing of new rebellion charges against the "Batasan 5" lawmakers and Honasan showed the government's desire to have "impartial justice" for all.

Placing the issues raised by the government against the Batasan 5 and Honasan in the courts would ensure that they are resolved expeditiously and in a forum that was more sober than the media, said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye.

"This government lives by the rule of law and the filing of charges should erase all doubts that we are determined to seek impartial justice for all concerned. This should push the issue to the courts away from the rough and tumble of media controversy as we let justice take its course," said Bunye in a statement.

Interior Secretary Ronaldo Puno yesterday said the Department of Justice declaration that the Bayan Muna party-list group and its allied groups were front organizations of the communist movement did not mean their members would be arrested.

They would have to commit certain crimes and acts against the state for them to be arrested, he said. *With Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Norman Bordadora*

Keep the faith, Palace tells victims' relatives

WITH THE ALARMING RISE IN the vigilante killing of leftist elements, Malacañang yesterday appealed to the families of the victims to keep their faith in the government.

"We stand for the supremacy of the rule of law and abhor all forms of violence, politically motivated or otherwise. We appeal to the victims' relatives to keep their faith in our institutional and democratic processes," said Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye in a statement.

Instead of resorting to vigilantism or taking the law into their own hands, Bunye said the victims' families should "help the authorities to ensure that justice prevails through the arrest and prosecution of the perpetrators of these heinous crimes." Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

'Killing of leftists a temporary setback'

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE KILLING OF LEADERS AND members of Left-leaning groups, including those seeking seats in Congress, will only be a momentary setback to their "electoral struggle" and will have little effect if the aim is to break the back of the communist movement, according to an analyst of the Philippine National Police.

The analyst, a senior PNP official, agreed to provide insights into the wave of murders on condition of anonymity.

Unofficially, security forces regard leftist organizations, such as the party-list groups Bayan Muna, Anakpawis and Gabriela, as part of the world's longest-running communist insurgency, the official said.

He said that viewed within this framework, the killings would only tend to strengthen the insurgency by serving as a point of recruitment.

"What is being hit is only the electoral struggle apparatus," he said, adding that this was insignificant if the aim was to rout the insurgency.

No communist insurgency in any part of the world has been broken using this strategy, the official said.

"If you want to crush [the insurgency], you have to suppress it ideologically, politically and militarily," he said.

The last means "decisive" military offensives against the New People's Army, the armed wing of the Communist Party of the Philippines, and targeted strikes against insurgency leaders, such as the members of the CPP executive committee and the NPA's military commanders, the official said.

These are the people who "direct the armed struggle and build up the NPA," he said, adding that the offensives would entail massive intelligence-gathering and military strikes, even commando-type operations aimed at wiping out the CPP-NPA leadership.

One question the analyst raised was whether those killed were official members of the CPP.

If they are party members, then the CPP itself might be hurting—but not much, because its military and political leadership have been largely spared, he said.

And if they are not party members, the killings will only "galvanize the issue of fascism [against the government]," he added.

Militant groups have strongly denied accusations that they are "legal fronts" or "aboveground" organizations of the CPP, or that their leaders were card-carrying party members.

They have maintained that their legal struggle is providing an alternative to armed struggle.

Pastor, a Bayan Muna chair, killed

PAGADIAN CITY—A PROTESTANT PASTOR was killed and his wife, also a pastor, was wounded when four men on two motorcycles ambushed and fired on the van they were riding in on May 9.

Rev. Jemias Tinambacan, 49, of the United Church of Christ of the Philippines, was hit in the head. He was the provincial chair of Bayan Muna in Misamis Occidental, executive director of the Mission for Indigenous and Self-Reliant People's Assistance Inc., which helps the Subanen tribe in the province, and a member of the Promotion of Church People's Rights.

Rev. Marilou Tinambacan, 50, also of the UCCP, said she and her husband were on their way to Oroquieta City from their residence in Lopez Jaena town in Misamis Occidental when four men on two motorcycles overtook their van and opened fire.

She said she recognized one of the assailants as a certain Mamay Guimalan, an alleged military informer and a resident of Barangay Calaran in Calamba town.

"I heard a familiar voice saying, '*Ang babaye buhi pa* (The woman is still alive).' And when I turned my head I recognized him as Mamay Guimalan," Marilou told the INQUIRER by phone.

She said Guimalan moved closer to the van, which had rammed into a tree beside the national highway, and fired in her direction. *Michael Sarcauga, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

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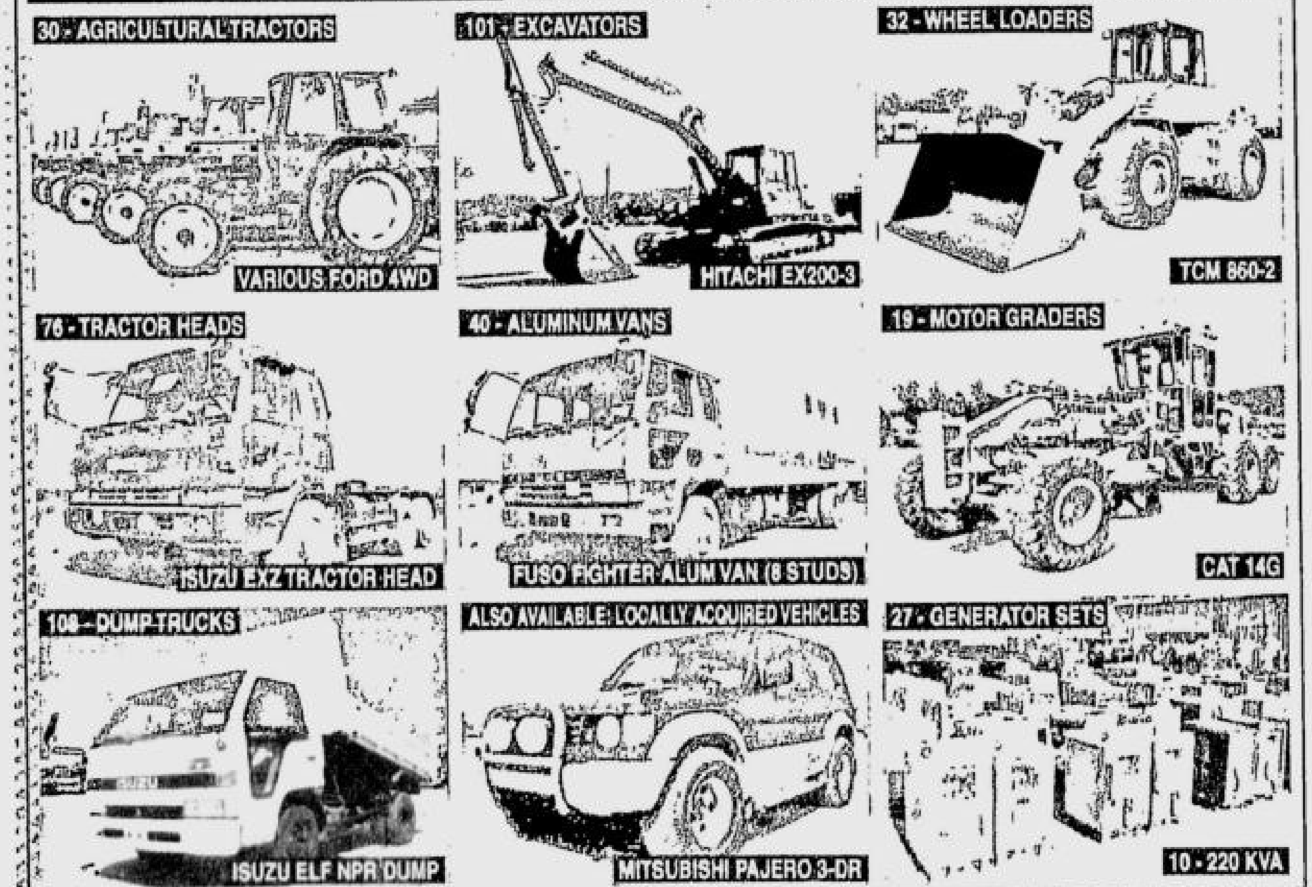

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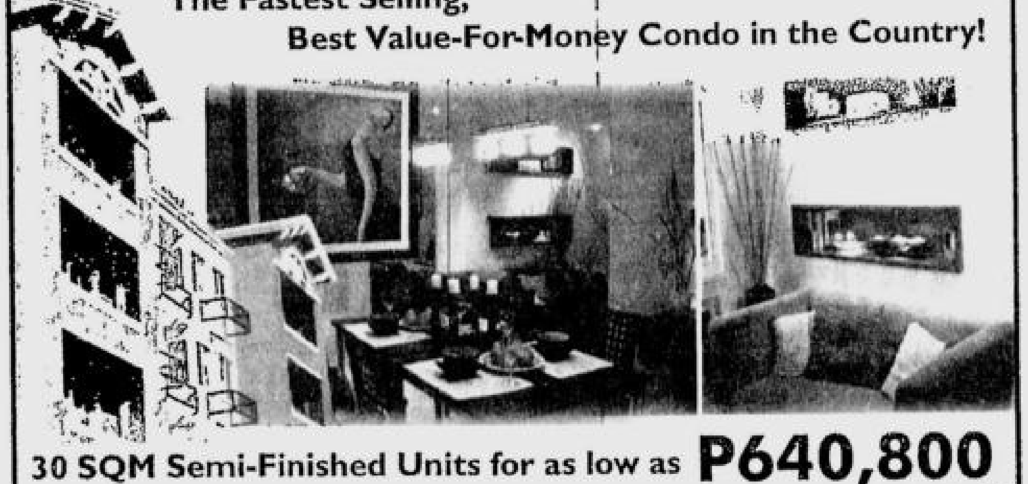

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CHEd OKs tuition hike of up to 7.6%

By Cynthia D. Balana

THE COMMISSION on Higher Education will allow private schools this school year to raise their tuition by only up to 7.6 percent, which is equal to the current inflation rate.

Dr. Carlito Puno, CHEd chair, told Vice President Noli de Castro in the latter's radio program, "Para Sa Iyo Bayan," that 80 percent of the proceeds from the tuition increase should benefit the schools' employees.

Puno, however, said there would be no increase in the tuition of state universities and colleges (SCUs) except for the University of the Philippines College of Medicine which had not raised its tuition in the last 14 years.

Puno said many private schools had applied for tuition increases but not all of them were as high as 7.6 percent.

He said it was too early to tell how many of the applications would be approved.

"The rule is to allow increases up to the current inflation rate, which in this case is only 7.6 percent. Beyond that we will not allow," he said.

De Castro said the tuition increases would force many students from the private schools to transfer to the public schools and SCUs.

On Monday, officials of SCUs will hold a meeting to study ways to maximize student enrollment.

De Castro urged the SCUs which had not filled their enrollment quotas to accept more students, particularly transferees from private schools.

He expressed concern that the tuition increases would result in fewer enrollments this year.

Puno said that 80 percent of the country's schools were private, thus the need to help them cope with the high cost of maintaining quality education.

He said the government had allocated P500 million for scholarships in private schools, another P250 million for the Study Now Pay Later Plan program, and P200 million as assistance to SCUs.

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REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: MAY 17-18, 2006, 9:00AM-5:00PM
AUCTION DATE: MAY 19, 2006 (FRI) @ 10:30 AM
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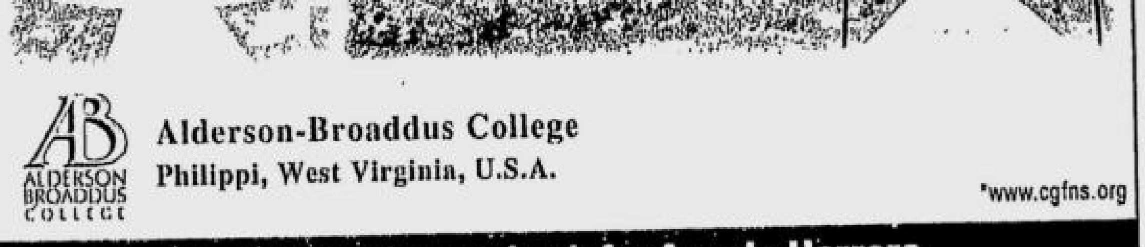

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Aussie wrongly deported to RP may get A$10M

SYDNEY—AN AUSTRALIAN CITIZEN WRONGly deported to the Philippines may seek at least 10 million Australian dollars (US$7.7 million) in compensation for her ordeal, a report said Saturday.

Philippine-born Vivian Alvarez Solon, who has two children living in Australia, was deported to her country of birth in 2001 and spent four years living in a hospice for the dying before she was found a year ago.

Immigration officials, under fire for a series of bungles which also saw another Australian resident wrongly jailed and detained for 10 months, incorrectly assumed Solon was an illegal immigrant.

At the time, she had recently been injured in a car accident and had several medical problems. The 44-year-old suffers from partial paralysis and in need of constant care.

A lawyer for the woman, George Newhouse, told the Sydney Morning Herald that speculation Solon's negligence claim against the Australian government would amount to 10 million dollars in compensation was "understated."

"One can never be certain in any litigation, but as Vivian's case has proceeded, the commonwealth's conduct has looked increasingly shabby and the quantum of her damages has become clearer," Newhouse said.

"The figures being bandied about may actually understate the extent of her claim."

A spokesperson for the Immigration Department would only tell the paper that progress on the settlement had been substantial.

AFP

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Sunday, May 14, 2006
5th Sunday of Easter

1st Reading: Acts 9:26-31

After Saul's conversion

When Saul came to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples there, but they were afraid of him because they could not believe that he was a disciple. But Barnabas took him and brought him to the apostles. He recounted to them how Saul had seen the Lord on his way and the words the Lord had spoken to him. He told them also how Saul had preached boldly in the name of Jesus.

Then Saul began to live with them. He moved about freely in Jerusalem and preached openly in the name of the Lord. He also spoke to the Hellenists and argued with them, but they wanted to kill him. When the believers learned of this, they took him down to Caesarea and sent him off to Tarsus.

Meanwhile, the Church had peace. It was building up throughout all Judea and Galilee and Samaria with eyes turned to the Lord and filled with comfort from the Holy Spirit.

2nd Reading: 1 John 3:18-24

Love in deed

My dear children, let us love not only with words and with our lips, but in truth and in deed.

Then we shall know that we are of the truth and we may calm our conscience in his presence. Every time it reproaches us, let us say: God is greater than our conscience, and he knows everything.

When our conscience does not condemn us, dear friends, we may have complete confidence in God. Then whatever we ask we shall receive, since we keep his commands and do what pleases him.

His command is that we believe in the Name of his Son Jesus Christ and that we love one another, as he has commanded us.

Whoever keeps his commands remains in God and God in him. It is by the Spirit God has given us that we know he lives in us.

Gospel: John 15:1-8

True vine

Jesus said to his disciples, "I am the true vine and my Father is the vinegrower. If any of my branches doesn't bear fruit, he breaks it off; and he prunes every branch that does bear fruit, that it may bear even more fruit.

"You are already made clean by the word I have spoken to you; live in me as I live in you. The branch cannot bear fruit by itself but has to remain part of the vine; so neither can you if you don't remain in me.

"I am the vine and you are the branches. As long as you remain in me and I in you, you bear much fruit; but apart from me you can do nothing. Whoever does not remain in me is thrown away as they do with branches and they wither. Then they are gathered and thrown into the fire and burned.

"If you remain in me and my words in you, you may ask whatever you want and it will be given to you. My Father is glorified when you bear much fruit: it is then that you become my disciples."

Commentary

Barnabas vouches for Saul even after the community remembers the harm and the violence he showed towards the earlier Church. Barnabas is like Saul's godfather-sponsor who walks with him and leads him deeper into the heart of the community. And the Church is at peace, growing stronger in the consolation of the Spirit. This is the historical description of John's letter: loving in deed and truth, at peace, no matter what happens, remaining in God, and God in us. And Jesus uses the image of the vine, the grower and the yield, to express this vibrant life shared in the Word, eucharist and conversion. How is the vine today?

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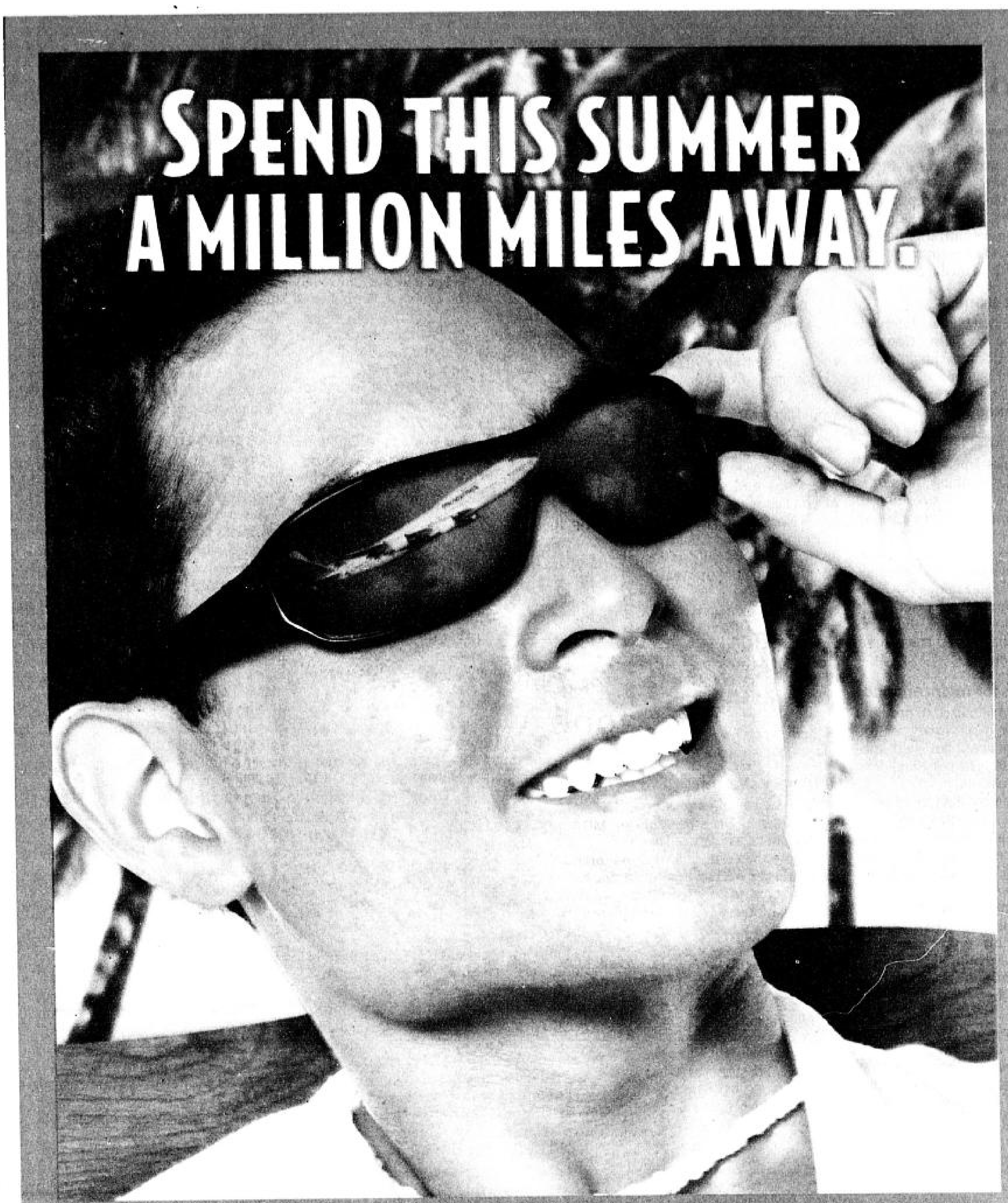

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'Am not grouchy ...

From page A1

"What does [having the] balls [to say things] got to do with that?" Gonzalez joked when asked if stones passing in his urine, which he admitted could be painful, was the reason he was sometimes grouchy to critics and media people.

Brittle stones

In a telephone interview with the INQUIRER, Gonzalez said his sickness should not be a reason for him to leave government service; as some critics had suggested.

"There are many people with sickness in their bladder. Sometimes I piss out stones," he said, describing the stones as "brittle" whose sizes ranged from a grain of rice to a kernel of corn.

"These are urinary ... bladder stones that affect the kidney," Gonzalez said.

His condition was more serious two years ago, he said, adding that he had been cured of the problem.

Dialysis for maintenance

He also admitted to presently undergoing dialysis for "maintenance," but said this was due to his having high levels of potassium.

"I undergo dialysis once a month if my potassium goes up," Gonzalez said, adding that he had a blood test every two weeks to check his potassium levels.

He admitted that the stones hurt when he passed them through his urine. He even joked about bringing a sample of the stones to his office this week for the INQUIRER to see .

Dr. Loi as psychiatrist

But he assured this reporter that his sickness did not affect his judgment or the performance of his duties as justice secretary.

"Even if they say I need a psychiatrist, what's important is that I know my law," said Gonzalez, whom even critics have described as having a sharp grasp of the law. These critics include Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Last week, leftist groups staged a lightning protest at the Department of Justice office, with one protestor wearing a straitjacket and a mask of the justice secretary's face.

Gonzalez joked that if he needed a psychiatrist, he would "go to Sen. Loi Ejercito. I have confidence in her. She's very qualified."

Asked why he would get the wife of ousted President Joseph Estrada—who is Ms Arroyo's No. 1 critic—as a psychiatrist, Gonzalez explained that his wife and the wife of Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr. were related to Ejercito.

"She's a good psychiatrist; she's got Erap. She was close to us before—during martial law ... even Erap [was close to us]," he said of the President who was deposed in 2001.

Besides, he said, there was a far better psychologist in the Palace—Ms Arroyo.

GMA very sharp

"With the way the President deals with me, I can see that the President is very sharp. She's more than a psychiatrist. She would know if there is anything wrong in my performance and if there is anything wrong with my head," Gonzalez said.

He also described the President as a very good judge of character who has the "memory of an angel."

"Don't ever go to a Cabinet meeting unprepared. When she knows you are unprepared and you're just trying to pull her leg or confuse her with figures... she'll snap at you," Gonzalez said.

Girl leaves mother to be 'child of our times'

From page A1

'We are not children of our parents; we are children of the times'?" she said.

Degree of commitment

Molly was aware of her daughter's involvement in activist work at the UP Integrated School in Quezon City, where she attended high school. She did not, however, know "the degree of Erika's commitment" until much later.

Erika was only 13 or 14 then, but Molly, a fine arts graduate, said she never "dictated" to the child what to do with her life.

She said she had always treated Erika and her five other children as "co-equals."

Molly said she could not recall Erika reading books on, say, the Cuban revolutionary Ernesto "Che" Guevara, but had expected her to be drawn to such works "because in a public school like UP, they were more aware of social issues."

"We had an agreement that if she wanted to let off steam, she should just do it at UP," the mother said.

A couple of years later, when Molly saw on TV the familiar smiling face with the chubby cheeks and slit eyes in the middle of a huge protest rally, she was not alarmed.

"I brought up my children to be aware of others and to do what they believed in, as long as they were ready to stand by it, and they knew the consequences," she said.

But the footage—which disturbed some friends and relatives— prompted a serious talk between mother and daughter.

Said Molly: "When we talked, she knew how to answer. I believed what she was saying, and that she knew what she was doing and was aware of the consequences.

"It was so hard because when she answered me ... [I knew] deep down that she was saying the right things."

Self-criticism

By Molly's account, Erika was born in 1985 to middle-class parents who ran a furniture export business.

The fourth in a brood of six, she attended an exclusive preschool in Makati City and finished grade school at the Colegio de San Agustin before moving to UPIS.

As a child, she was prone to tantrums; she would slump on the floor if she did not get her way, kicking and screaming until she was hoarse.

But when she turned 10, three years after her father died of a heart attack, she consciously "criticized" herself because she felt that everyone disliked her. It was, Molly recalled, a huge transformation.

The day she brought home a classmate physically abused by his father and expressed her intention to bring the case to the attention of the barangay chair remains fresh in the family memory.

It was not long before Erika quit school in her junior year in 2001 and prepared for a "two-week exposure" in the countryside.

As Erika was leaving, Molly told the maid to go after her. But she flashed her impish grin and waved until the tricycle she was riding in disappeared from view.

Like going on vacation

"It was so light; it was like she was just going on vacation in Laguna or Cavite," the mother recalled.

Stopping her would have been next to impossible: "I couldn't convince her otherwise. Whether I liked it or not, she left. I couldn't tie her down to the house, even if I wanted to. It was that strong in her."

It was never the same again for the family.

For the next few years, Erika would arrive at the family home in Quezon City at ungodly hours and leave as she came, never staying long enough to go to the mall or to the beach with her siblings.

"She would just pack up and leave," Molly said. "Once, she reminded me, 'Didn't you tell us, ma, that children are just visitors in a house?' How could you argue with that?"

It took some time, emotional wrangling and reflection before Molly learned to accept the role she had to play for "this particular child," as well as the hard facts that Erika was "no longer ours" and that "whatever she was doing, it was her purpose."

"It was hard; you had to have some sort of belief in you," she said.

'Always looked happy'

Still, Molly was half-hoping that the next time Erika came home, she could convince her "Chinese baby" to stay put and enroll in a course in, say, the culinary arts.

"She always looked happy when she came home. What could you do?" the mother said, unable to recall any instance when Erika complained, not even when she returned with a foot injury she got while working with kaingin farmers.

Erika became a full-time "integree" at 16. But at 17, she was told to return home because she was underaged.

When she turned 18, however, she returned to the same path, working with impoverished villagers and educating them on social issues.

That afternoon of March 30 when Erika's friends came to the house, Molly did not expect to hear tragic news.

But somehow, she said, she was prepared for it.

'Just so young'

"Tell me, was she shot? Has she been killed?" Molly recalled asking the visitors.

She said she met the answer with shock, which soon gave way to acceptance.

It helped, she said, that she had been doing "transcendental meditation" for the past 30 years: "The impression is not so deep that I lose my center of self."

But then, she could not but lament: "She was just so young."

Erika was killed along with three others when government troops overran a supposed NPA camp in Barangay Patalunan in Lupi, Camarines Sur, before noon of March 29.

Her father died on the same day 14 years ago.

"I have no anger toward the man who killed her," Molly said. "She was doing her purpose and duty in her capacity, and he was also doing his. I can't say there's something wrong and there's something right."

Wooden coffin

Molly traveled by bus to claim her daughter's body.

Outside the municipal hall of Ragay, the town next to Lupi, she found Erika, like the others, lying in a wooden coffin and dressed in an unfamiliar pink dress.

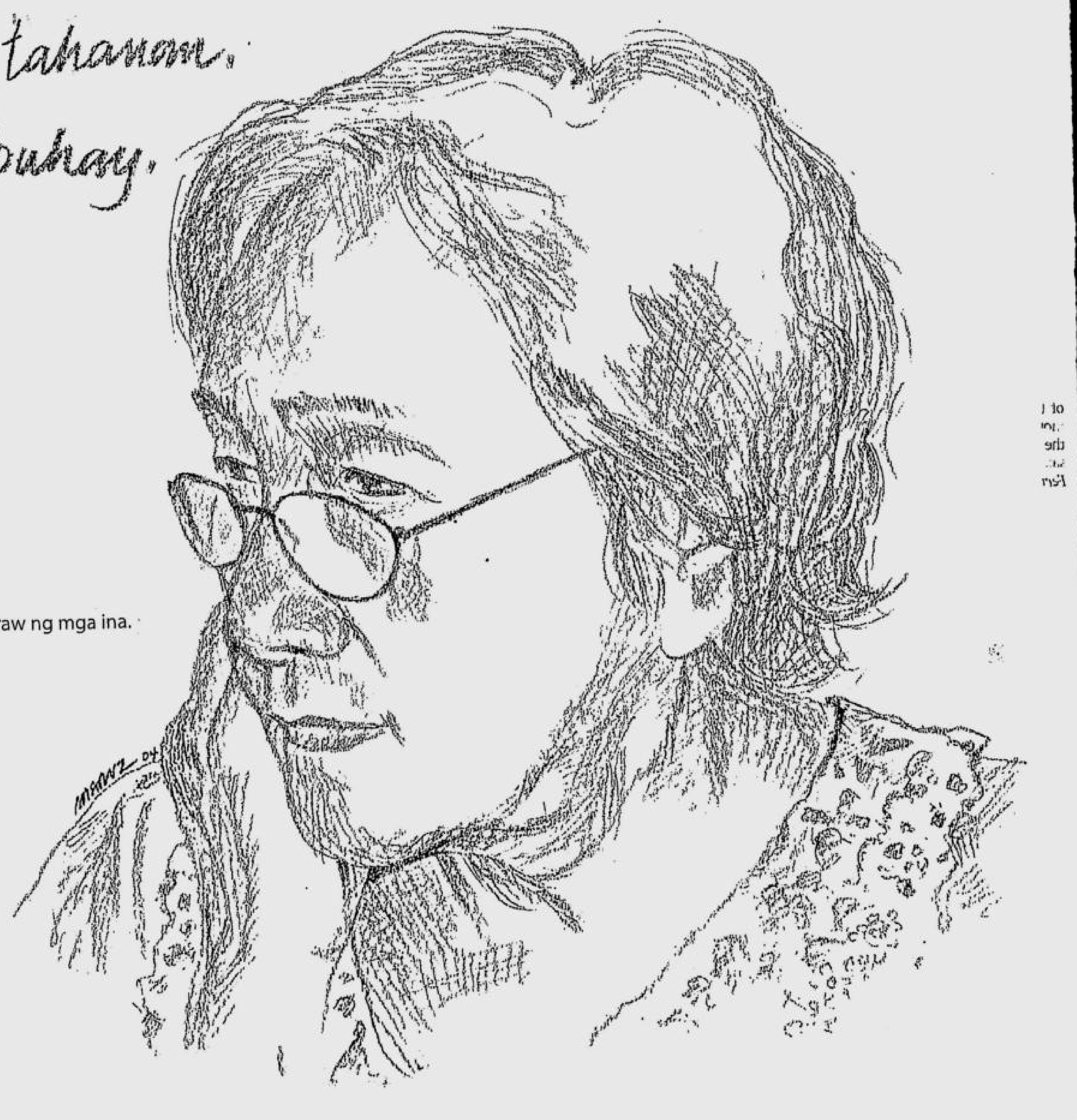
Passersby and motorists stopped to look in the direction of the coffins and then moved on.

Molly said she could not forget how some villagers, without uttering a word, seemed to tell her: "We knew your daughter."

"They made you feel they were one with you," she said.

In conversations with the local folk, Molly learned that Erika not only mingled and worked with the villagers but also treated their ailments with herbs—something she had taught her daughter—and acupuncture.

"Suddenly," the mother said, "that place became beautiful in my eyes."



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at isang maligayang araw ng mga ina.

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Saudis want RP investors to come in, – Sto. Tomas

By Jerome Aning

FILIPINO COMPANIES WITH FILIPINO workers doing projects in Saudi Arabia.

This is what several Saudi royals want to see in the future, according to Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas, who was with President Macapagal-Arroyo in her state visit to the kingdom a few days ago.

Sto. Tomas said Prince Salman bin Abdul Aziz, the governor of Riyadh province, told her that overseas Filipino workers in Saudi Arabia "are the best" and that he would like to see more of them coming as the kingdom entered a new construction boom due to increased oil profits.

"Prince Salman said that of the many nationalities working in Saudi Arabia, our OFWs are the best in terms of honesty, competence, skills and kindness," Sto. Tomas said in a phone interview Friday.

She said another Saudi royal, Prince Muhammad bin Fahd bin Abdul Aziz, wanted Filipinos involved "in a bigger kind of way" in the development of about 50 million acres of land that would require 500,000 workers.

"Why don't you come here as somebody who'd bid for these projects?" she quoted Prince Muhamad as telling her and other Filipino officials. The prince is the governor of the Eastern Province where the industrial cities of al-Khobar, Dhahran and Damman are located.

"He said that if Filipino firms band together and successfully bid for projects in Saudi Arabia, they would be the ones supervising Filipino workers," Sto. Tomas said. This would mean a "double benefit to our country" in terms of the contract awarded to a Filipino company and the wages of the OFWs, she said.

Prince Mohammad is the son of the late Saudi King Fahd. Prince Salman is Fahd's full brother and half brother to the current monarch, King Abdullah, all three being sons of the first Saudi king, Ibn Saud.

Both princes heaped praise on OFWs.

Meanwhile, Robert Dean Barbers, general manager of the Philippine Tourism Authority, said he expected more Saudi investments in local tourism projects following the President's visit.

"Tourism will definitely create more jobs. A major investment from Saudi Arabia in the largely untapped beauty of Mindanao might serve as a confidence-building measure to forge... a lasting peace there," he said.

Pilot, student safe after crash

CEBU CITY—A PILOT AND HIS KOREAN STUDENT on board a twin-seater Cessna were slightly hurt when the plane crashed some 300 meters from Runway 22 of the Mactan-Cebu International Airport at 3:50 p.m. yesterday as it was making a final approach to land.

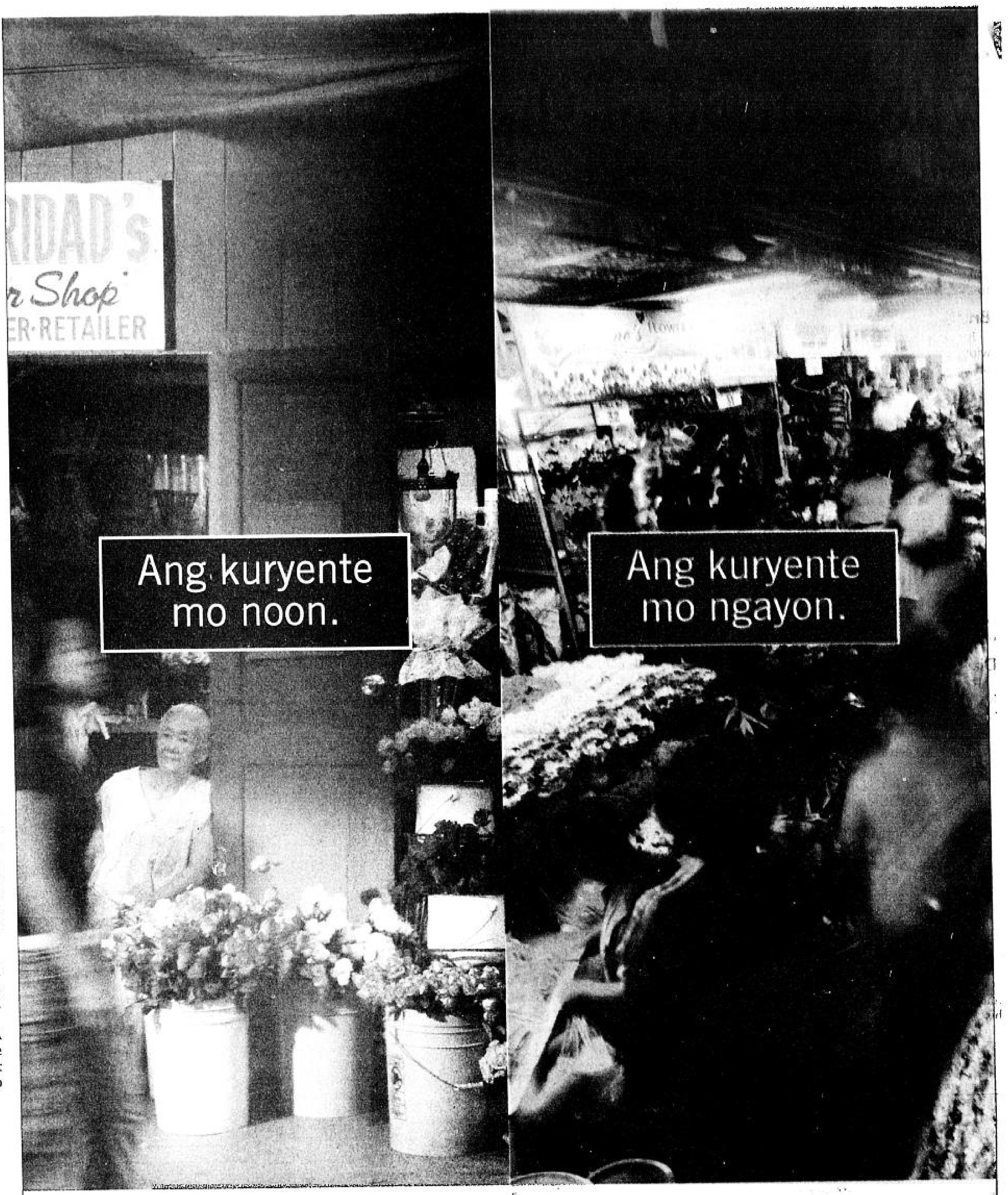
Airport authorities identified the pilot as Capt. Mark Gallasinao, a flying instructor. The Korean, Ejong Ghi, was among 24 students lined up to take their first flying lesson yesterday.

The plane, owned by Cebu-based Adventure Flight and Sports Education, a flying school, also hit and damaged a three-week-old Honda sedan owned and being driven by Salvador Abadesco.

Abadesco said he was on his way home to Mandaue City from a beach outing when he saw the plane flying apparently out of control only about three meters above his car. He said he stepped on his brakes but was unable to avoid hitting the plane with his car's door and bumper.

Romy Arquillano, ATO-Mactan supervisor, said the plane came from Olango Island off Mactan Island and was about to land when it crashed, hitting the fence separating the airport from the highway before hitting Abadesco's car.

The pilot and his student managed to get out of the plane and walk a short distance before motorists picked them up and brought them to the Mactan Doctors Hospital, airport authorities said. The aircraft was a total wreck. *Connie E. Fernandez, PDI Visayas Bureau*



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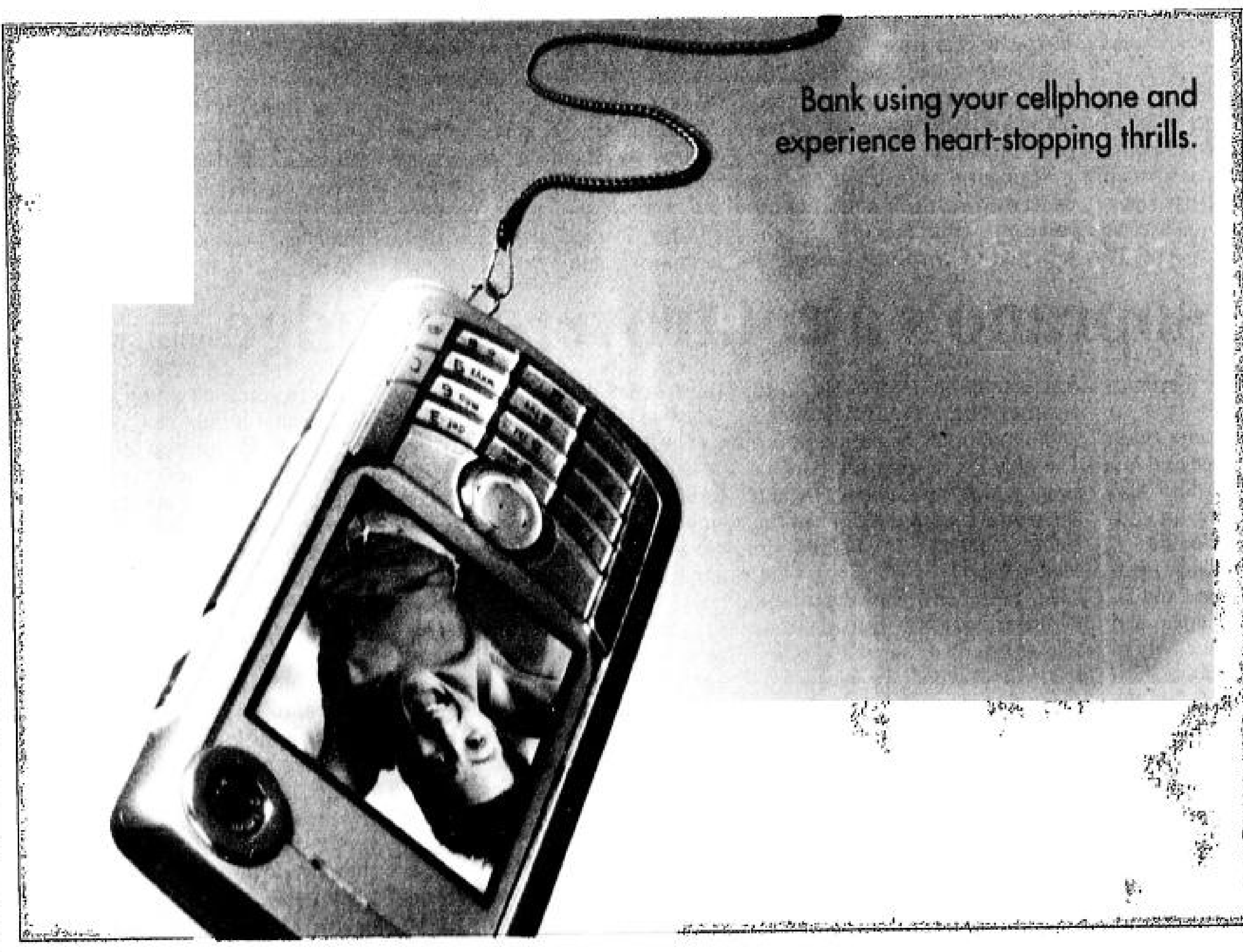
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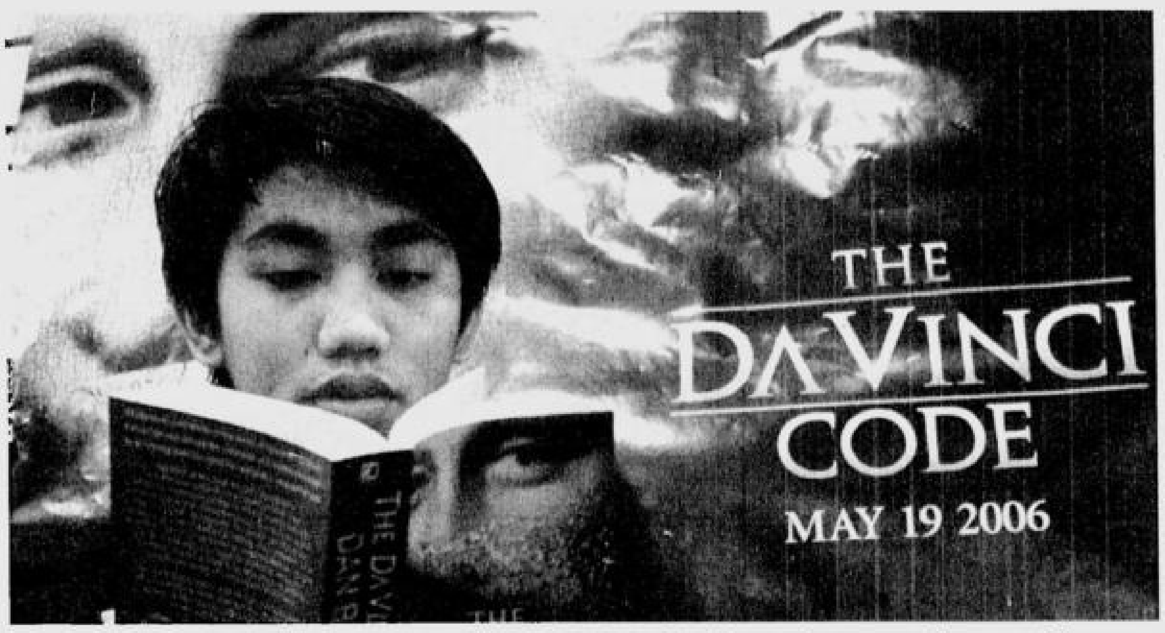
Who's afraid of The Da Vinci Code?

From page A1



A FILIPINO reads the book that sold 60 million worldwide; behind the movie poster of the same title. REUTERS

ing Sir Isaac Newton, Botticelli, Victor Hugo and Leonardo da Vinci.

"The Vatican prelature known as Opus Dei is a deeply devout Catholic sect that has been the topic of recent controversy due to reports of brainwashing, coercion and a dangerous practice known as 'corporal mortification.' Opus Dei has just completed construction of a $47 million National Headquarters at 243 Lexington Avenue in New York City.

"All descriptions of artwork, architecture, documents and secret rituals in this novel are accurate."

Brown further says that Jesus was merely "divinized" by Emperor Constantine in the Council of Nicea in 325; that Constantine had the Bible limited to those gospels that portrayed Jesus as divine; that Jesus married Mary Magdalene and had a daughter by her, from whom sprang a line of kings; that the Holy Grail is Mary Magdalene herself, not a mere chalice; that she is the one, not the apostle John, on Jesus' right in Leonardo da Vinci's The Last Supper; that Da Vinci was a Grand Master of the Priory of Sion, which was formed to protect the secret of the Grail from the Church which wants to destroy it.

Is there a Priory of Sion?

Extensive research made by the well-known sociologist Massimo Introvigne of the Center of the Study of New Religions in Torino, Italy, says that in 1099, Godefroy de Buillion (1060-1100), who became King of Jerusalem, founded an Abbey (not a Priory) of Our Lady of Mount Zion in Jerusalem. It was destroyed by the Muslims in 1291, forcing its surviving monks to flee to Sicily, where the abbey remained until the 14th century. In 1956, a Frenchman named Pierre Plantard (1920-2000) set up a "Priory of Sion" in Annemasse, France, whose primary concern was low-income housing in France. There neither is nor was a Priory of Sion, as described by Brown.

Did the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris "discover" parchments known as Les Dossiers Secrets in 1975, which identified numerous members of the Priory, including Sir Isaac Newton, Botticelli, Victor Hugo and Da Vinci?

Documents known as Les Dossiers Secret de Henri Lobineau and signed by one Philippe Toscan du Plantier were deposited with—not discovered by—the Bibliotheque Nationale in 1967—not 1975. These were texts rather than parchments which Plantard first handed over to Gerard de Sede, an author who described them in 1988 as "apocryphal," inspired by "market sensationalism." Plantard said they were fabricated by Philippe de Cherisey (1925-1985), an impoverished marquis-turned-TV actor, and by du Plantier himself. No parchments are in the Bibliotheque Nationale.

Was Da Vinci not a prominent member (Grand Master) of the Priory?

Brown lists 26 Priory "Grand Masters," starting with Jean de Grisors, from 1188 to 1220, up to Jean Cocteau, from 1918 to 1963. But if Brown's Priory never existed at all, how could there have been even one single Grand Master?

Did Jesus marry and sire a daughter by Magdalene, and is Magdalene the Holy Grail?

There is not a shred or scintilla of evidence to support this claim. And not even Les Dossiers Secrets make this claim. Most importantly, all those who had helped provide the sources of Brown's claim have since confessed to the fraud.

It all began in 1969 or 1970 when Henry Soskin, an English actor in "The Avengers" TV series, decided to work with Plantard, De Sede and Cherisey. At the time, a book by Robert Ambelain (1907-1997) had claimed Jesus had a female companion named Salome. Soskin, who had changed his name to Henry Lincoln, favored Plantard's story about Jesus and Magdalene.

In 1982, Lincoln co-authored "Holy Blood, Holy Grail" with Michael Baigent and Richard Leigh (Jonathan Cape, London), to elaborate on this tale. From it, Brown drew the "facts" for his novel. Even his fictional historian's name, Leigh Teabing, is culled from the names of Lincoln's two co-authors—Leigh, from Richard Leigh, and Teabing, an anagram of Baigent.

Did Da Vinci not paint Magdalene to Jesus' right in The Last Supper?

Prof. Judith Veronica Field of the University of London, president of the Leonardo da Vinci Society, scoffs at it as "absurd." A great many of us have been looking at this masterpiece for years. Have we all been played for fools?

If, indeed, Jesus had married Magdalene, should he not have left her in the care of a trusted friend, just as he left his mother in John's?

If the alleged marriage had, indeed, produced a line of kings, why have they kept themselves away from the affairs of Christ's Church?

Did not Constantine fix the contents of the Bible and "divinize" an otherwise mortal Jesus?

Nothing supports this claim.

Some 90 years before Constantine's birth, the Church had already rejected the Gnostic texts and recognized the four gospels of Matthew, Luke, Mark and John as canonical. Yet the Christian faith "is not a religion of the book," as the Catechism (108) says. From the very beginning, it has always rested on Christ revealing himself as perfect God and perfect man, as the living Word. And from Nero to Diocletian, 54 to 305, the early Christians embraced persecution and martyrdom rather than renounce their faith in the divinity of Christ.

Constantine was instrumental in convening the Council of Nicea. But it was the duty of St. Athanasius, the bishop of Alexandria, and the 220 bishops gathered there to clarify Church doctrine. It was they who condemned Arianism, which denied the three persons in one God, saying there was only one person, the Father, and that the son was like all other created beings. They also adopted the Nicene Creed which affirmed faith in Jesus Christ as "the only son of God, eternally begotten of the Father, God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, one in being with the Father. Through him all things were made."

Constantine, though already known as the Christian Emperor, did not formally convert to Christianity until he was dying in 337. But he converted to Arian Christianity, not to Nicean Christianity. Were Jesus merely mortal, the pagan Emperor could not have "divinized" him in any way.

Even the devil himself had no problem accepting the divinity of Christ.

In the third and final temptation, when Jesus fasted for 40 days and 40 nights, the devil showed him all the kingdoms of the earth and said, "All these I will give you if you fall down and worship me." To which Jesus replied, "Begone, Satan, for it is written, 'You shall worship the Lord your God and Him only shall you serve'." (Mt 4:8-10). And the devil, who is a liar and the father of all lies (Jn 8:44), "left him and angels came and ministered to him" (Mt 4:11).

Will Brown want it said that he is simply trying to outdo Beelzebub?

In his "fact" page, Brown assigns a hilarious role to Opus Dei. He calls it a sect and accuses it of brainwashing, coercion and corporal mortification. Then he brings in a monk-assassin, and a troubled bishop and brands them Opus Dei.

The result is an absurd caricature that completely deforms reality. But because of this, more and more people want to know the real Opus Dei. We'll try to answer some of their questions here, based on what we've read and what we know.

What is Opus Dei?

Opus Dei (Latin for Work of God) is a personal prelature of the Catholic Church erected by Pope John Paul II on Nov. 28, 1982. Opus Dei was founded by a 26-year-old Spanish priest named Josemaria Escriva de Balaguer in Madrid on Oct. 2, 1928, as a way of spreading the love and mercy of God everywhere, and helping men and women, in the ordinary circumstances of their daily life, to respond to the universal call to holiness.

The founder died on June 26, 1975, and was canonized on Oct. 6, 2002. The relatively fast pace of the process is a happy consequence of the streamlining of the process under the 1983 Code of Canon Law. Using the same process, the Pope beatified Mother Teresa of Calcutta in just six years after her death.

Who are in Opus Dei?

Opus Dei has some 85,000 members in more than 60 countries. Most members are laymen and lay women. About two percent (2,000) are priests, no monks. Of the lay members, 70 percent are married (supernumeraries), 20 percent are single and celibate members who live in residence centers (numeraries), 10 percent, though single and celibate, live by themselves or with their respective families (associates).

In the Philippines, there are some 3,000 members.

Is Opus Dei a personal prelature of the Pope?

Opus Dei is a personal prelature of the Catholic Church. It is not correct to say, as Brown's novel says, it is a personal prelature of the Vatican or the Pope.

The word "personal" does not mean "personal" to the Pope. It simply means that the prelate's jurisdiction is "personal" rather than "territorial." While a diocesan bishop's territorial jurisdiction extends to the length and breadth of his diocese, the prelate's personal jurisdiction extends to all the members of his prelature, wherever they are, without in any way altering their membership in and duties to their respective parishes or dioceses.

Opus Dei members remain under the authority of their diocesan bishops. Opus Dei itself may not initiate any activity within a diocese without the prior consent of the bishop of the place.

Is Opus Dei a sect or not?

The term "sect" usually refers to an organized body of dissenters from an established or older form of faith. It cannot possibly refer to an institution that believes what the Church believes.

How accurate are "reports of brainwashing, coercion and a dangerous practice known as "corporal mortification" which Brown refers to in his "fact" page?

No such report can possibly come from anyone who knows Opus Dei and its spirit. They usually come from ill-informed sources. No one becomes, and no one remains, a member of Opus Dei, except by his or her own free will, in correspondence of course with a much higher will. One is normally brought into Opus Dei through the prayers and "personal apostolate" of a friend in Opus Dei. It is an "apostolate of personal friendship."

But no one may commit oneself permanently to become a member of Opus Dei unless he or she is at least 23 years old, and shall have completed six and a half years of systematic and comprehensive instructions and studies on what such membership entails. And no one may commit oneself even temporarily, unless he or she is at least 18 years old, and shall have undergone the necessary instructions and studies on his or her professed or perceived vocation.

"Corporal mortification," as described in the novel, has no relation whatsoever to the practice of corporal mortification in the Church.

What numeraries and associates practice cannot possibly resemble, to any degree, what is done by the assassin Silas, who punctures his back with a heavy discipline and his thighs with a spiked cilice.

Were Brown's portrayal even just half accurate, it would be hard to find anyone wanting to become an Opus Dei numerary or an associate. The spirit of Opus Dei has a lot more to do with divine filiation, which recognizes one's nothingness before God. Corporal mortification is but a very small part of it.

In his triptych—The Way, Furrow, The Forge—St. Josemaria has so much more to say about prayer, love, friendship, virtue, work and so many other things than mortification. And he insists on mortification that does not mortify others.

"The appropriate word you left unsaid; the joke you didn't tell; the cheerful smile for those who bother you; that silence when you're unjustly accused; your kind conversation with people you find boring and tactless; the daily effort to overlook one irritating detail or another in those who live with you … this, with perseverance, is indeed solid interior mortification." (The Way, 173)

Should the movie be shown or not?

This is a matter of law. We need not tell the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board what to do. They only have to follow the law. The law provides, among other things, that, using contemporary Filipino cultural values as standard, the board should take extreme care in allowing films that contain elements contrary to good custom, or are libelous or defamatory to the good name and reputation of any person, living or dead. Is Christ or the Church or anybody else libeled or defamed in the movie? If yes, the board must act accordingly. Otherwise they should not do anything that might produce the very result we are all trying to avoid.

Will this movie not create the kind of crisis which Brown predicts for the Church?

We'll see. In his book, Brown says that once it is revealed that Jesus married Magdalene, the Church would face its worst crisis in 2,000 years. Well, Brown's shocking claim is out, and what do we see? An unprecedented Church crisis? The people are not easily duped.

The greatest heresies that ever confronted Christianity have always come from within the Church. We have seen them roll out—Arianism, Pelagianism, Donatism, Nestorianism, Albigensianism, to mention some of the best known. The heresiachs tried to poison the well from which Catholics drank their faith. They could never succeed, just as the Roman emperors could not extinguish the early Christians from the face of the earth.

Dan Brown is an outsider trying to recycle some of the old junk, not so much to wage a war against Christianity as to make a big buck, at our expense. It may be giving him more credit than is his due to put him on the same rank as Arius, Pelagius or Nestorius. He is making his pile, and he will not be denied his 15 minutes of fame. But whatever he does, he will not bring down Christ or his Church.

Jesus is Lord who keeps his promises. And he has promised Peter, "on this rock I will build my church, and the powers of death shall not prevail against it" (Mt 16:18).

Will best-selling book become a movie blockbuster?

PARIS—SO HERE WE GO again, still more "Da Vinci Code." And with the screen version of the novel being released on Friday, twin publicity machines are busily at work: Columbia Pictures is plastering the globe with posters of Tom Hanks and Audrey Tautou looking worried, while Christian prelates are drum-beating warnings about the movie's presumed blasphemous content.

Not, of course, that there has been much letup in the hype since Dan Brown published his quasi-mystical thriller in 2003.

The novel, which has sold some 60 million copies to date, has inspired tours to the museum, chateau, churches and monuments mentioned in its plot. It has also produced websites and nonfiction accounts debating its merits and has boosted the sale of other Holy Grail books. (Two authors of one contended unsuccessfully that Brown plagiarized their work.)

But now this pop-culture juggernaut is facing a new test: will "The Da Vinci Code" also become a hit movie?

Ron Howard, the film's director, and Akiva Goldsman, its screenwriter, have a lot going for them, but the outcome is far from assured. Adapting much-loved books to the screen can be a tricky business because readers have already imagined—even visualized—the story. And if the screen version strays too far from the original, it may not please audiences who know the book.

"We are definitely in competition with everyone's imagination," Goldsman said in a telephone interview from New York. "It's a hard battle to win. We're hoping for a draw. When we were shooting the film, we tried not to think about it. But it's all we're thinking about now."

Yet too literal an adaptation can also be fatal. In this case, for instance, it is evident that all the plot's multiple twists and turns cannot be squeezed into a 2-hour 20-minute movie; nor can the movie risk being entirely true to a novel in which talking heads spend a good deal of time debating competing accounts of Christianity.

So is there a secret to bringing books successfully to the screen?

"Ruthlessness," said the novelist Diane Johnson, who has written screenplays herself, including that of Stanley Kubrick's adaptation of Stephen King's novel "The Shining." "In a movie, you're working with 120 scenes, so the first thing is to throw out half of the novel. Novelists who follow their screen versions too closely are in for a lot of agony." *New York Times*

From stage to courtroom: The soprano's a controversial judge

From page A1

to present a program. Even if there was only one visitor, we would still put on a full show," the judge said.

From singing songs in the living room, they took their act on stage performing as the Aldecoa Family Singers in 1974. That same year, they were adjudged champions of the National Music Competitions for Young Artists (NAMCYA) at the Cultural Center of the Philippines. Five years later, the family toured the United States and Canada as Philippine ambassadors of goodwill, holding concerts for organizations and charitable institutions.

"The organizers would give us a talent fee. My father would give us kids just enough to make us happy, and the rest he would donate back to the organization that invited us to help raise funds," Delorino recalled.

Music or law?

When it was time to go to college, Delorino wanted to pursue vocal training as a degree. She had taken up voice lessons from elementary up to high school at the School of Music and Fine Arts at Silliman, an Evangelical Christian university where generations of Aldecoas had pursued their studies since it was established in 1901.

But her father, who was university president from 1983 to 1986, convinced her to take up law. She vacillated between nursing and food technology, but finally decided to take up political science as her pre-law course.

She graduated magna cum laude in political science and later, cum laude in law. She also managed to sneak singing into her crammed school schedule.

"I was singing even when I was in law school. At that time, my father was president of Silliman and we were living on campus. Whenever he had foreign guests—ambassadors, consuls—I'd rush to the president's house on my meal break [perform a few songs] and then go back to school after," Delorino said.

Semi-retirement

From 1986 until 2003, Delorino found herself in "semi-retirement" from music, as she had to concentrate on her work as court attorney in the Court of Appeals and, later, in the Supreme Court. The only spare time she had for singing was on Sundays, when she would sing in the choir of the Union Church of Manila in Makati City.

In 1999, she was diagnosed with uterine cancer, a disease that also afflicted her aunts and other relatives. Fortunately, because of early detection, she was able to act quickly. She had a total hysterectomy in March of the same year, a month after she was diagnosed with the disease.

In that period of crisis, "I sang to myself and everything just melted away... the problems, the worries," Delorino said. She often sang the traditional church hymn "His Eye is on a Sparrow" to comfort herself.

In 2003, Badon persuaded Delorino to return to the concert stage. It didn't take much to convince her. Facing an audience again after 17 years, she realized how much she had missed singing. She promised herself she would never give up singing again.

"It's therapy for me. Ultimately, the reward is when people come up to me and say they were moved by my song," she said.

It's showtime

Delorino, judge and soprano, is also a mother. She encourages daughter Jemima Carina, 12, to listen to songs of young soprano Charlotte Church alongside the usual bubble-gum pop songs.

"I'm training her in classical singing. Of course, she can copy any singer on television, but I'm teaching her [to sing the] classical way. I think it's all right with her because I don't deprive her of choosing her own songs," she said.

Delorino said being a judge was not that different from being a soprano.

Both require sincerity and hard work, she said, adding: "When I enter the courtroom, it's like going onstage. It's showtime, folks! People watch [my] every move; they listen to [my] every word. They know it would have an impact on their lives."

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Graduation Rites 2006

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I extend my most cordial greetings to this year's graduates of AMA and commend AMA for being one of the leading institutions of learning in the new millennium. Your commencement theme, *"Responding to the Challenges of the New Millennium,"* reflects your institution's strong commitment to develop information and communication technology professionals who can compete in the global community.

I urge you, AMA graduates, to pursue your mission with vigor and be the country's partners in national development. As future leaders of our country, you should explore and expand the opportunities that await you and transform them into positive course of action that will contribute to the betterment of Philippine society. Mabuhay kayong lahat!

Gloria Arroyo

HER EXCELLENCY GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO
President, Republic of the Philippines

My sincerest greetings to the 2005-2006 graduating students of AMA Computer University. It is indeed inspiring to emphasize that your institution's humble beginnings have planted deep roots and influence our country's field of Computer Education. You, as graduate of AMA Computer University are this age's leader in InformationTechnology. Various opportunities await you in the outside world.

As future leaders of this country, I encourage you to take hope, dream big and aim high! I am confident that with your belief in excellence and faith in God, you will attain your dreams, realize your purpose and serve your country.

To the graduates, my warmest congratulations and best wishes on your well-deserved achievement!

HONORABLE CYNTHIA A. VILLAR
Chairperson, Committee on Higher and Technical Education
House of Representatives

My congratulations to all graduates of AMA Computer College Class of 2006!

Today, you join the ranks of professionals. Be proud. The years that you spent in AMA has given you the necessary foundation and the skills to pursue your dreams. Bear in mind, however, that in the pursuit of your dreams, whatever you do, wherever you are, your actions and your thoughts will have an impact on the people and community around you.

You are the ones who will create our tomorrow. You hold the future in your hands. Again, congratulations to each and every one of you.

SECRETARY ARTHUR C. YAP
Presidential Adviser for Job Creation and
Head, Presidential Management Staff
Office of the President

I convey my warmest felicitations to the graduating class of 2006!

Each and every one of you are privileged in ways that you may not at all realize, for you carry in your hearts the fulfillment to become college graduates in your own right. You now have the tools to make the right choices that not only shape your own intellectual, emotional and spiritual lives, but also the world around you. You hold in yourselves and in your hearts, the dreams and aspirations that we hold so dear. May you step forward boldly and steadfastly in pursuing your aspiration and in realizing more dreams.

Congratulations, graduates!

DR. AMABLE R. AGUILUZ V
Chairman Emeritus, AMA Education System

I extend my warmest congratulations to the graduating class of 2006!

Today's world requires broad-minded, educated and very productive leaders who are creative, flexible and independent. You have strengthened your practical knowledge and skills in the field you have chosen and honed your leadership skills as well. This will assure you long-term success.

I hope that you carry on the vision of AMA and continue to be an inspiration to many. I am confident that each of you are potential leaders and innovators who will respond to the demands of the time.

Be at the forefront and be proud to be an AMAer!

AMABLE C. AGUILUZ IX
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May 14, 2006

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Palace, JDV laud Miriam's turn on Con-Ass

By Gil Cabacungan
and Philip C. Tubeza

NOT SURPRISINGLY, MALACAÑANG and Speaker Jose de Venecia yesterday expressed elation over Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's prediction that the Senate, the biggest stumbling block to the Charter-change express, would cease to exist in two months.

In lauding Santiago, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang was optimistic the rest of the senator's colleagues would follow her lead and support the House of Representatives's position that Congress should vote as one in forming itself into a constituent assembly (Con-Ass).

"Senator Defensor-Santiago's support for constitutional amendments is a refreshing gust of wind that will surely boost the sails of efforts to effect genuine political and economic reforms," Bunye said in a statement.

Defensor is the first senator to back the House position in light of the Senate's insistence that the Constitution mandate separate voting the two chambers for the assembly.

Santiago had said the debate should be settled by July in favor of the House when the Supreme Court shall have decided on the issue.

For his part, De Venecia said Santiago's public nod to Charter-change would boost the campaign to amend the Constitution.

"We welcome Senator Defensor-Santiago's statement as a significant breakthrough. The country is a step closer to amending the Charter and changing the form of government that will launch the country into a new era of governance and economic development," De Venecia told the annual meeting of the Philippine Bar Association.

De Venecia said he had asked Rep. Constantino Jaraula, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments, to expedite action on the resolution Jaraula filed two weeks ago calling for a constituent assembly and proposing constitutional amendments.

Jaraula yesterday said six to eight more senators were willing to join a constituent assembly if the Supreme Court decides that 195 votes in the House would be enough to have a constituent assembly convened that would vote on proposed amendments even "without the Senate."

The House majority coalition contends that 195 votes—or three-fourths of the total membership of Congress—meets the minimum constitutional requirement to convene a constituent assembly and amend the Charter.

Jaraula did not name the senators, but said: "They are amenable to a constituent assembly like Miriam (Santiago) provided the Supreme Court rules that 195 votes are enough. Let's just wait for them to present their views in public."

De Venecia said at least 187 House members had signed or were committed to supporting the resolution. He predicted the number could hit 197 to 200 "if there is a significant development in the Senate."

Jaraula said he was confident the House majority would be able to gather 195 votes in a plenary vote on the resolution, which is expected in the first week of June.

In 2004, more than 190 House members endorsed a similar resolution but the measure failed to gain Senate approval.

De Venecia had always stated that Charter reform was the "country's last hope" to eliminate gridlock and wastage in government, promote efficiency and transparency in governance and policy-making.

Senators to Palace: Don't politicize AFP

By TJ Burgonio
and Juliet Labog-Javellana

SENATORS RODOLfo Biazon and Manuel "Mar" Roxas II have accused Malacañang of trying to induce the military into supporting its campaign to amend the Constitution and demanded that opponents of Charter change be given "equal time" with the soldiers to counter the administration's propaganda.

The two legislators were riled when the Palace-backed Advocacy Commission for Charter Change, accompanied by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, met with the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (Agfo) at Camp Aguinaldo on Thursday and made a pitch for the so-called people's initiative to amend the Constitution and pave the way for a parliamentary form of government.

"Do not politicize the AFP," Biazon said at a news conference Friday during which he demanded that the Cha-cha advocacy commission headed by Raul Lambino keep the Armed Forces of the Philippines out of its political campaign.

Biazon, a former AFP chief of staff, said there would have been nothing unlawful about the meeting "except for the fact that the issue of Charter change has acquired a purely partisan political interest."

"If Malacañang continues to push for Charter change, then we are politicizing the AFP because Attorney Lambino, who is the proponent of the people's initiative, had talked to Agfo, which includes generals in the active service," he said.

At the lecture, Lambino made a pitch for constitutional reform, claiming that a change in the system of government would solve much of the military's woes, including the communist insurgency. The lecture, attended by Ermita, was seen as an administration attempt to rally active and retired military officers behind its campaign to amend the Constitution.

"I am asking that those opposing Malacañang's move should also be given equal time with the soldiers so that we may be able to explain the other side of Charter change, especially the people's initiative, which is nothing but a misnomer," Biazon said.

In a separate statement, Roxas said that through Lambino's lecture to the Agfo members, Malacañang was trying to "bamboozle"the military into supporting Cha-cha.

"I hope the administration allows the anti-Cha-cha groups equal opportunity to explain their position unless the government's intent is to indoctrinate rather than to inform," Roxas said, adding, "There is a world of difference between information and indoctrination."

Tourist arrivals up 13% – DOT

FOREIGN TOURIST ARRIVALS ROSE BY 13 percent in the first quarter of the year, according to figures released yesterday by the Department of Tourism.

Foreign tourists totaled 762,912 from January to March, up by 13 percent from the 643,202 registered in the same period last year.

The United States, South Korea and Japan were the top three sources of foreign tourists, accounting for nearly three-fifths of the total.

This was the first time in the country's history tourist arrivals exceeded a quarter of a million in the first quarter.

Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano attributed the growth to the DOT's "market-driven campaigns." He pledged "more intensified marketing efforts for tourism and further promotions and participation in international consumer events to ensure a Philippine presence."

The month of March accounted for the highest number of arrivals, accounting for 35 percent, despite the declaration of a state of emergency over a failed coup.

"Tourism has never been so good this year," said Robert Dean Barbers, general manager of the Philippine Tourism Authority, the DOT's implementing arm.

However, the head of an association of travel agencies warned the DOT about being "too obsessed" with arrival figures.

"Harping about arrival statistics is nothing but a drama of the DOT to get more money for its promotions when all it has to do is maximize the use of its current resources in promoting the country," said Robert Lim Joseph, chair of the National Association of Independent Travel Agencies (Naitas).

Joseph said the DOT should hire local marketing experts in target countries instead of merely naming television celebrities there as tourism envoys, as the DOT did some months ago in Taiwan and South Korea. *Jerome Aning*

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Non-Completion or Non-Compliance with the 36-unit MCLE Requirement during the 1st Compliance Period which ended on 31 December 2004, would mean being listed as a delinquent member of the IBP and will not be permitted to practice law until such time as adequate proof of Compliance is received by the Supreme Court MCLE Governing Board.
AVAIL OF U.P. LAW CENTER'S MCLE – ONE WEEK COURSE (36 UNITS) on 29 May-02 June 2006 AT THE SECOND FLOOR, CONFERENCE ROOM,BOCOBO HALL, U.P. LAW CENTER, U.P. CAMPUS, DILIMAN, QUEZON CITY

DATE	SUBJECT	MCLE CREDIT C.U.*	LECTURERS
29 May (Monday)	Civil, Criminal & Administrative Liabilities of Lawyers *(Legal Ethics)*	*Three (3) c.u.* (9:00 - 12:00)	Justice Jose L. Sabio Jr.
	Update in Criminal Law & Procedure *(Substantive & Procedural Law)*	*Three (3) c.u.* (1:30 - 4:30)	Justice Diosdado M. Peralta
30 May (Tuesday)	Constitutional Reforms *(Substantive Law)*	*Three (3) c.u.* (9:00 a.m.- 12:00)	Dean Froilan M. Bacungan
	Mediation & Arbitration Skills for Lawyers *(ADR)*	*Three (3) c.u.* (1:00 – 4:00)	Prof. Rowena Daroy-Morales
	Court Annexed & Court Referred Mediation *(ADR)*	*Two (2) c.u.* (4:15 – 6:15)	Prof. Rowena Daroy-Morales
31 May (Wednesday)	Gender Sensitivity & the Justice System *(MCLE Prescribed)*	*Three (3) c.u.* (9:00-12:00)	Prof. Myrna S. Feliciano
	The Art of Direct & Cross-Examination *(Oral Advocacy)*	*Four (4)* c.u. (1:00-5:00)	Dep. Omb. Jesus F. Guererro (ret.)
01 June (Thursday)	Updates in Labor Law *(Substantive Law)*	*Three (3) c.u.* (9:00 –12:00)	Prof. Patricia R.P. Salvador Daway
	Pre-Trial and Trial Skills *(Pre-Trial & Trial Skills)*	*Four (4) c.u.* (1:00-5:00)	Justice Lucas P. Bersamin
02 June (Friday)	Ethical Dimensions in the Availment of Legal Remedies *(Legal Ethics)*	*Three (3) c.u.* (9:00-12:00)	Justice Hilarion L. Aquino (ret.)
	International Law & Children's Rights *(International Law)*	*Two (2) c.u.* (1:00 – 3:00)	Prof. Alberto T. Muyot
	Juvenile Justice *(MCLE Prescribed)*	*Three (3) c.u.* (3:15 – 6:15)	Prof. Alberto T. Muyot
		TOTAL: 36 c.u..	

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GMA can't peg population growth rate, say lawmakers

By Philip C. Tubeza

PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo cannot bring down the country's population growth rate merely through executive fiat, two lawmakers said yesterday.

Representatives Gilbert Remulla (Cavite) and Nereus Acosta (Bukidnon), proponents of the Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act, scored the President's recent order pegging the population growth rate at 1.95 percent which, the two pointed out, was only a projection by the National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB).

The two said the government should conduct a census instead to determine the country's real population growth rate.

'Dishonesty'

"I think it is intellectual dishonesty, using projections and indicative data to suit a particular argument and presenting it as fact. How could we have a projection validated if there are no updated data? There was no census in 2005," Acosta said.

Acosta pointed out the NSCB's 1.95-percent projected population growth rate was the "low projection" and "there [were] high and medium projections, too."

"Unfortunately, the President and her policy team seem to be making an excuse for not taking a census. If these projections in the end are not realized, who would we blame then?" Remulla said.

"We will only be fooling ourselves. Or rather, Malacañang will be fooling the people again. Let's have a census, for God's sake," he said.

Church stand

Acosta said the administration might have wanted to emphasize the lower population growth rate to appease the powerful Catholic Church, which is adamantly against using artificial contraception to control population growth.

"Let me just say that it is unfortunate that population policy issues have been overly politicized," Acosta said.

Remulla said it was foolhardy to base major economic and fiscal policy decisions on unverified projections. He pointed out the government needed accurate data to determine how many classrooms, health centers and shelters to build.

Channel funds

The President had indicated that funds intended for population management could now be channeled to other social services with the slowdown in the country's population growth.

"Before they start reallocating funds, please, let's have a census. It would be irresponsible for anyone, especially government planners and economists, to base spending on social services on such inaccurate data," Remulla said.

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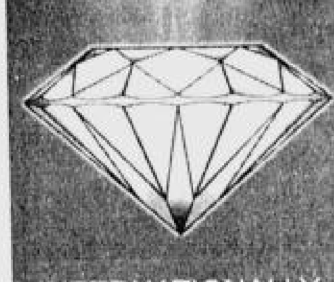

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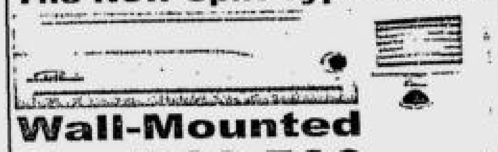

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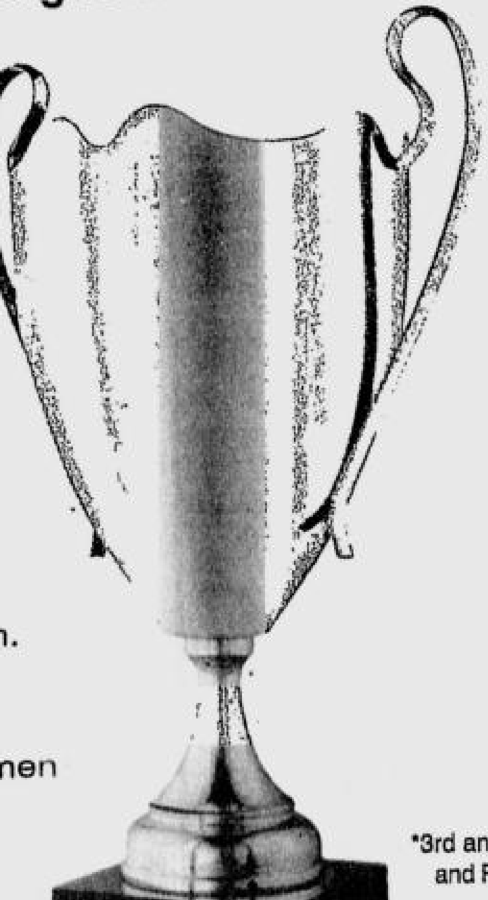

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Dads support moms . . .

From page A1

learn from one another how best to help maintain order and harmony in the family.

Tatay, a "father support" system essentially for women often left to tend to their babies, is composed of 12 male volunteers from Arugaan, a nongovernment organization focused on providing support for babies and toddlers and their mothers.

Dropping the proverbial male macho image, Tatay members have been busy visiting communities since January, making themselves available for the training and counseling of other fathers who think that they are not up to the job.

Sharing the burden, and not only the joys of family life is probably the best gift these fathers can give their wives on Mother's Day, according to Arugaan founder Ines Avellana Fernandez.

"Taking care of children is a shared responsibility," Fernandez told the INQUIRER in an interview on Thursday.

Not a daunting task

The task of child-rearing is not as daunting as many dads may be predisposed to think. Take it from Tatay founder Jonathan Roxas, 29, an executive in a company based in Parañaque City.

From Fernandez's account, Roxas has no qualms about sharing the load with his wife Velvet, a chemical engineer. It's the little things he does for their daughter, Jhey, that make the difference in the household.

He cooks, answers the phone or the doorbell, and performs other chores to allow Velvet to have quality time while breast-feeding their child.

He even "expresses" Velvet's breast milk for Jhey's feeding later in the day, fully aware that each drop is more beneficial than infant formula.

Fernandez said the young father learned all these at Arugaan, where some 500 volunteers like himself educate couples across the country on three main points: "Healing food," "healing hands" and "healing heads."

The first involves parents preparing healthy food for themselves and their babies using ingredients naturally and abundantly available in their communities. (Ilocano food, for instance, is considered "whole or complete," Fernandez said.)

The second pertains to massage techniques to help mothers induce lactation, while the third is focused on developing better communication between parents and their children.

Since it was established in 1989, Arugaan has been trying to destroy "myths" on the proper care of children, particularly in the critical first three years of life, Fernandez said.

Among these myths is the "conventional attitude" that Filipino fathers are expected to provide for the family but not to attend to their children's day-to-day needs, she said.

This probably explains why simple tasks like changing diapers are still largely left to mothers, she said.

Breast-feeding myths

Tatay is trying to break down these conventions, Fernandez said, including the "well-entrenched" misconceptions on breast-feeding.

The myths are quite prevalent, she said, citing a number of examples—that not all mothers can produce milk, that lactation is dependent on breast size, or that infant formula is just better and actually produces geniuses.

"These are all lies created by milk companies," Fernandez declared.

She said these misconceptions explained why only 16 percent of Filipino mothers were following the global prescription of exclusive breast-feeding of their children from birth up to six months.

Said Fernandez: "Ideally, every street corner should be a breast-feeding corner. Nothing should stop you from feeding your child. In a first-class restaurant, breast milk is your child's first-class food.

"But in reality, mothers are beset with too many fears. They are too vulnerable to the aggressive campaign of milk companies."

Crucial role

A husband can play a crucial role by helping his wife understand the advantages of breast-feeding, Fernandez said.

She cited the case of a factory worker in Novaliches who heard Arugaan build a strong case for breast-feeding in a radio program.

The arguments that initially presented themselves as unthinkable gradually became convincing to the man who had become used to hearing his wife and in-laws say that breast-feeding was not worth the bother.

Fernandez said the man attended a counseling session of Arugaan and later talked his wife into nursing their baby girl.

Eventually, the wife encouraged her co-workers to breast-feed their children.

Fernandez said a businessman in Binondo once donated a remarkable 25 ounces of breast milk to Arugaan. (Breast milk naturally comes in a trickle because it is "concentrated," unlike infant formula that is prepared in bottles and glasses, she explained.)

The businessman himself "expressed" the milk from his wife and preserved it. She apparently had more than enough for their twin babies.

Men, too

Other fathers can follow suit, when they start believing that child care is not purely a woman's domain, Fernandez said.

She pointed out that breast-feeding was actually not exclusive to women: "Anthropological studies show that certain populations of men can breast-feed because they also have mammary glands."

But she added: "I don't think men would be pushed to that scenario in this day and age. Our women have more than enough breast milk for all our babies."

---

35 dead in Caloy's wake

From page A1

waves, Coast Guard station commander Lt. Edgar Boado said.

Ten other people were killed in other parts of the country. They either drowned, were crushed by falling trees or walls, or were electrocuted.

More than a dozen persons were missing.

In a 3 p.m. bulletin yesterday, the Manila International Airport Authority said 67 domestic flights were cancelled during the day, either because of bad weather or the late arrival of turnaround aircraft.

More than a dozen people were still missing in sea mishaps, according to the National Disaster Coordinating Council (NDCC).

Power outages

Many parts of Bicol as well as the Samar provinces remained without power for a second day. Emergency crews struggled to clear major roads blocked by landslides.

Residents in low-lying areas fled before raging floodwaters swept away their homes, the NDCC said.

Several other boats capsized.

Masbate provincial director Supt. Eugenio Alcovindas said that of the 25 bodies recovered in the sinking of the Mae Ann, 18 had been identified.

Only nine names of those killed could be obtained by the Inquirer. They were Dodong Alburo, Chaway Alburo, Selsa Fajardo, Angeline Tagayom, Jenny Tagayom, Jenelyn Tagayom, Elpidio Quilong-quilong and Divine Quilong-quilong. The eighth was identified as a bus inspector of Lobrigo Bus Line.

The Mae Ann was owned and operated by Lobrigo Shipping Lines.

Alcovindas identified the lone missing passenger of the boat as Geopet Alburo.

Two women were killed in Batangas—a 36-year-old woman hit by a falling tree in Nasugbu, and an 84-year-old woman pinned by a wall in Lobo—while a man gathering coconuts died after being struck by a tree in Tiaong, Quezon.

A young boy died in Nagcarlan, Laguna, when a coconut tree knocked down by strong winds fell on him, the NDCC said.

A fisherman drowned after his fishing boat capsized off Negros Occidental, the NDCC said.

A falling tree also killed an unidentified man in Mogpog town, Marinduque.

A man and his wife were electrocuted by a fallen power line in Negros Occidental.

In Legazpi City, the Office of Civil Defense recorded one dead, a 14-year-old girl struck by a falling tree in Nazareno, Masbate.

Lone fatality in Metro Manila

One person died in Metro Manila.

A 61-year-old woman, Teresita Zarcal Gruazo, was killed while four other persons, including a 2-year-old girl, were seriously injured when a concrete wall behind a dilapidated building caved in and crushed them amid heavy rains and strong winds in Caloocan City, officials said.

A neighbor who ran out to help the victims was also hurt.

"It was raining hard and the wind was strong when the incident happened at around 10:30 in the morning," Caloocan public safety chief Al Santamaria said.

In Tingloy, Batangas, five fishermen were reported missing. There was no electricity yet in the whole of Laguna, Batangas and Quezon, except for Lucena City.

Four other fishermen were reported missing in Calabarzon.

Three others were missing after their boat capsized in the waters off Barangay Kinamaligan, Masbate.

Another unidentified person was reported missing in Laoang, Northern Samar.

Floods, landslides

Landslides and flashfloods destroyed at least 145 homes and damaged 1,124 others, mostly in Legazpi City and in San Antonio, Northern Samar, said the NDCC.

In Catarman, Northern Samar, residents were able to flee to higher ground before floodwaters swept away 21 houses.

Some 17,000 people were affected by the storm in Northern Samar. The worst hit town was Mapanas, where about 15,000 were affected.

As of yesterday afternoon, Camarines Norte, parts of Catanduanes, Camarines Sur (except Naga City), Albay, Sorsogon and Masbate (except Burias Island) remained without power.

Power also had not been restored to Oriental Mindoro.

Power interruptions persisted in Eastern Samar and Northern Samar; in Dulag, Leyte, and in Sogod and other parts of Southern Leyte.

10,000 stranded

Some municipalities in northern Cebu province also experienced power interruptions most of the morning yesterday.

The Coast Guard reported thousands of passengers stranded in major ports in Southern Tagalog as ships delayed their departure while others already at sea took shelter in coves and harbors.

Despite power outages that struck some of its stations, the Coast Guard was busy all day tracking passenger ships plying the seas around Romblon, Mindoro, Marinduque and the Calamian Islands.

Spokesperson Lt. Cmdr. Joseph Coyme said more than 2,100 passengers were stranded in the ports of Batangas City, Lucena, Capalan, Romblon, San Jose and Puerto Real.

Taking into account all ships that delayed their arrivals and departures in different parts of the country, Coyme estimated the total affected passengers at about 10,000.

Ships given clearance

In Manila's North Harbor, several ships were given clearance to leave as of 5 p.m. while others from areas where the typhoon signals had been lowered began arriving.

The Coast Guard barred all ships with gross tonnage of 2,000 tons from going to sea in areas under storm Signal No. 2 . Boats with gross tonnage of 1,000 tons and below were prohibited from sailing in areas under Signal No. 1

Several ships that were allowed to sail but were later caught in the storm took shelter in natural and man-made harbors along the way.

One such ship, the Sulpicio Lines' M/V Filipinas Princess with about 1,000 passengers, ran aground as it took shelter in Carmen Bay in Romblon's Tablas Island.

While on its way to the bay, the ship rescued three fishermen whose boat had capsized.

A 20-man Coast Guard team has been dispatched to Tabaco in Albay to retrieve the sunken M/V Northern Samar, owned by the Sta. Clara Shipping Co.

The vessel sank due to strong winds and water currents on Friday.

No electricity

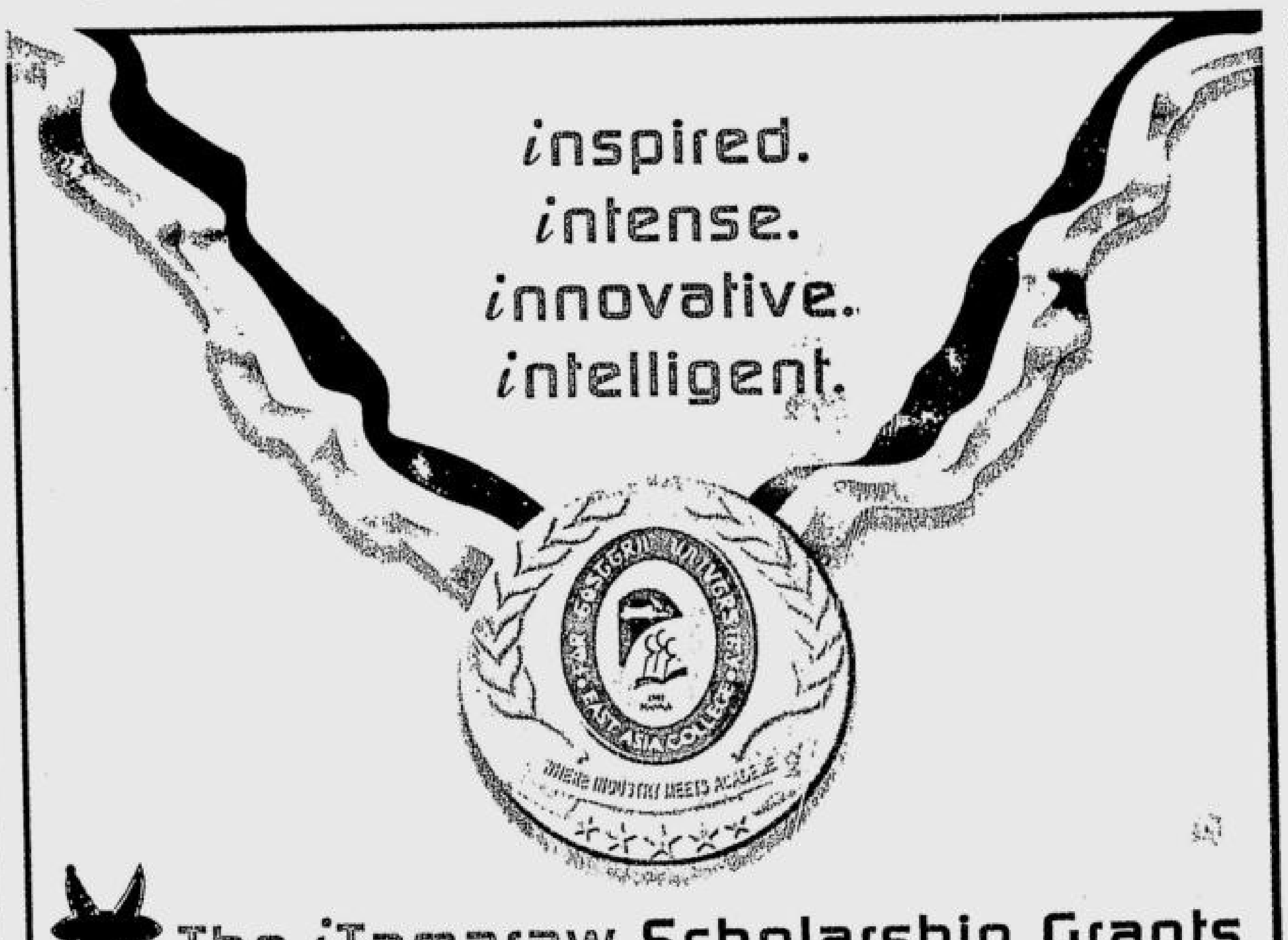
Commander Nelson Torre, head of PCG Bicol Station, said his men were studying how the ship could be retrieved so that it would not be cannibalized.

In other incidents in Southern Luzon, three schools in Padre Garcia and San Juan, Batangas, and a public market in Padre Garcia were destroyed.

Some 2,000 passengers have been stranded in the Batangas and Lucena ports since Friday.

In Oriental Mindoro, Gov. Arnan C. Panaligan said the storm damaged electric power and communication lines in the province and felled trees along major roads.

There has been no electricity in the whole province of Oriental Mindoro since 9 p.m. Friday. *Reports from Norman Bordadora, Dona Pazzibugan, Jerome Aning, Gil C. Cabacungan Jr., Nancy Carvajal and Volt Contreras; Delfin Mallari Jr., Marlon Ramos, Romulo Ponte, Job B. Belen, Gerald Querubin, Madonna Virola, Marlon Ramos, Ephraim Aguilar and Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Nestor P. Burgos Jr. and Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau*



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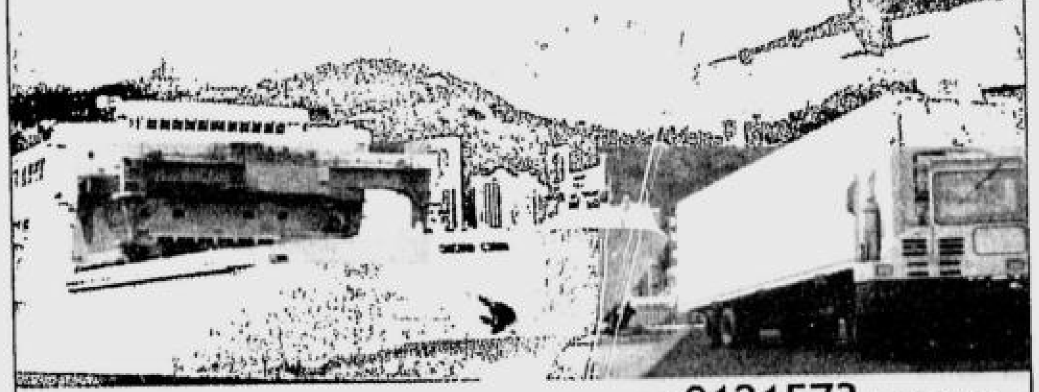

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Professionals paying less tax – Salceda

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

SIX MONTHS AFTER THE IMPLEMENTATION of the reformed value-added tax (VAT), businessmen and professionals are getting away with paying less in taxes while the Filipino working-class are left with no choice.

Albay Rep. Joey Salceda, an economic adviser to President Macapagal-Arroyo, said the Bureau of Internal Revenue had failed to do its share in ensuring an equitable tax burden among all classes in the implementation of fiscal reforms with corporate and professional tax leakages continuing to swell.

"While the fiscal reforms have staved off a financial crisis and enhanced state capacity to spur economic growth, they also spawned more virulent forms of corruption, widened income inequality and heightened the unfairness of burden-sharing all because of BIR mismanagement," said Salceda, noting that corporate income taxes grew by a measly 3 percent while VAT collections surged by 75 percent during the period.

The BIR fell short of its collection target by P10 billion in April (the peak collection month being the deadline for income tax payments).

In a statement, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Malacañang would get to the bottom of the steep drop in revenue collections.

"We will take immediate remedial measures. But we remain confident that the current year's target is on track and will be achieved," said Bunye.

Finance Secretary Margarito Teves has refused to comment on the BIR's April collection data until the official figures have been released.

Salceda said the BIR should explain why collections collapsed by 8 percent in April after growing by 23 percent in the first three months this year.

Pagcor shuts Subic casinos

SUBIC BAY Freeport—The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) on Friday closed two casinos operated by the Legend International Resorts Limited (LIRL) here for the company's alleged failure to pay more than P365 million in debts since 2001.

Pagcor said it revoked the LIRL's provisional authority to operate casinos within the Subic Freeport because the company had consistently refused to remit to Pagcor the guaranteed minimum amount of P5 million a month as provided for by LIRL's license to operate.

"It has been three years since the provisional authority was granted. However, no amicable resolution of the company's monetary obligations has been achieved between the [LIRL] and Pagcor," said Carlos Bautista Jr., Pagcor's senior managing head.

"We are now duty-bound to revoke the company's provisional authority and immediately stop all its casino operations," he said.

Khoo Boo Boon, chief executive officer of LIRL, protested the closure as being "irregular" and without legal basis but said he allowed the closure to maintain peace and order. *Ansbert Joaquin and Allan Macatuno, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

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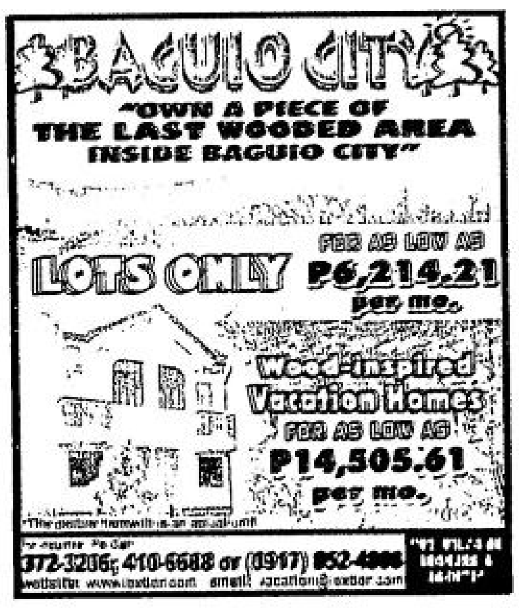
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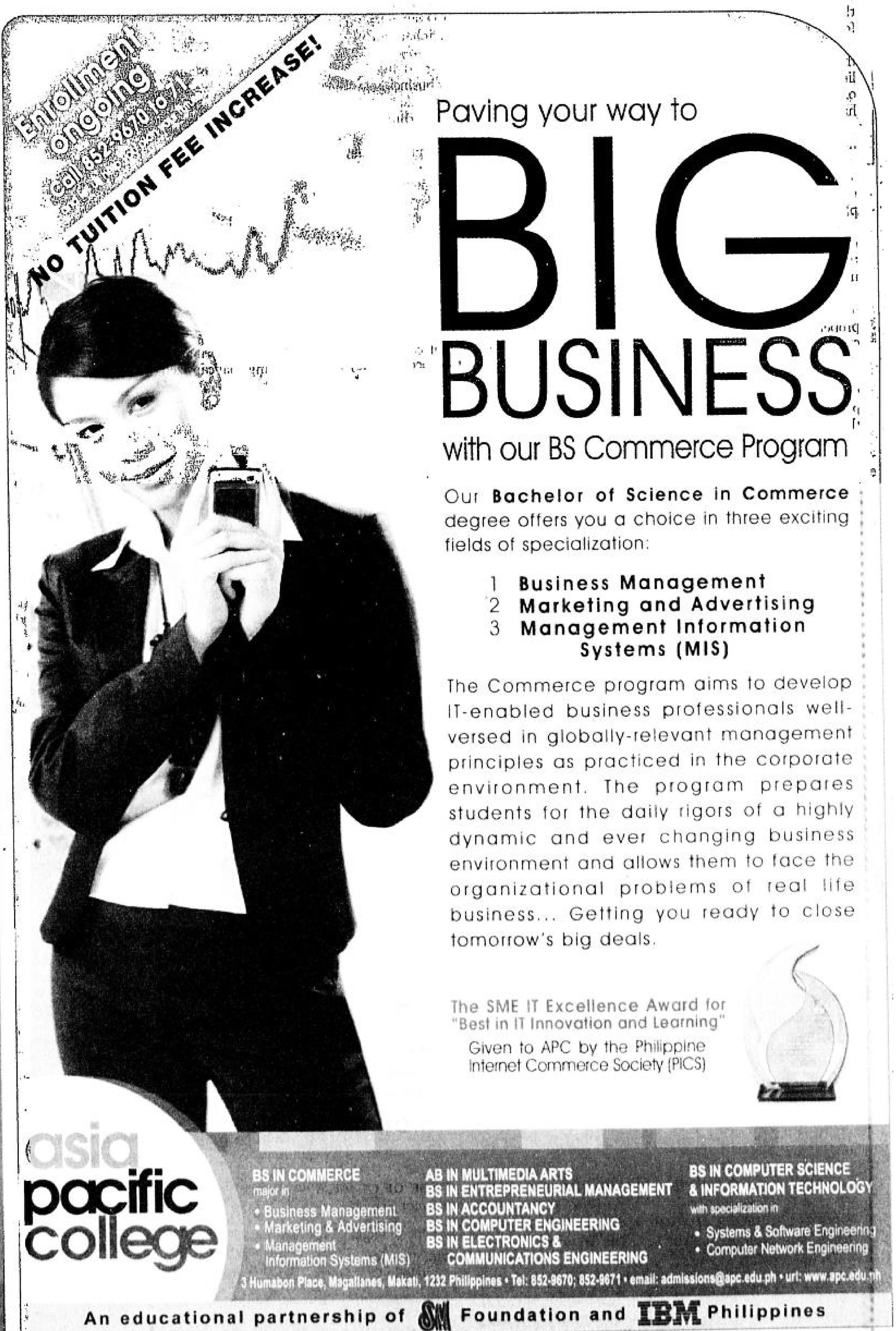
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'Terrible malaise'

EDITORIAL

THE LATEST PASTORAL STATEMENT FROM THE country's influential Catholic bishops landed in the news pages last week for their "political" views: for their praise of the Supreme Court's decisions on Executive Order 464 and Presidential Proclamation 1017, for their confession of continuing unease over the "deceptive" signature campaign for Charter change, for their "full disclosure" position on the controversial Mayuga report.

These views—carefully couched as a "call to action from a moral standpoint"—revolve around a central, crucial theme: the "need to restore trust in our political institutions 'which are perceived by many to be corrupted'." The views are certainly newsworthy, in part because of the role the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has played in our recent history.

But the "pastoral exhortation" does not limit itself to these views; in fact, these views are only a part of the statement, which the bishops released, under CBCP president Archbishop Angel Lagdameo's signature, to issue guidelines on how to observe the "Year of Social Concerns."

The statement does not mince words. It describes the national situation in bleak terms: "Political turmoil, moral corruption, and environmental degradation have worsened massive poverty and scandalous social inequality." It acknowledges what we may call a growing sense of learned helplessness. "We are today especially concerned about a pervasive sense of weariness, cynicism, and hopelessness among many of our people." And it does not shirk from asking the necessary questions: "What can we, must we, as Church do to heal this terrible malaise of spirit? What more can we do to help our people, especially the poor, believe that there is hope?"

The rest of the pastoral statement can be understood as an attempt to answer these pivotal questions. Some of the answers are overarching and positively philosophical (building character, building community); others are specific and practical (training programs for good governance, *bantay-dagat* or ocean watch movements).

Perhaps the most striking part of the statement is the bishops' reminder to the faithful about a cultural failing that persists to this day: "Fifteen years ago, we pointed out that the ruinous divisiveness in our country is rooted in a culture 'too focused on the good of small social groups' ... on the good of those we identify with, our families, our town-mates, our province-mates, etc."

To this list we can add: our parties, our "camps," our alliances and coalitions, the sides we take.

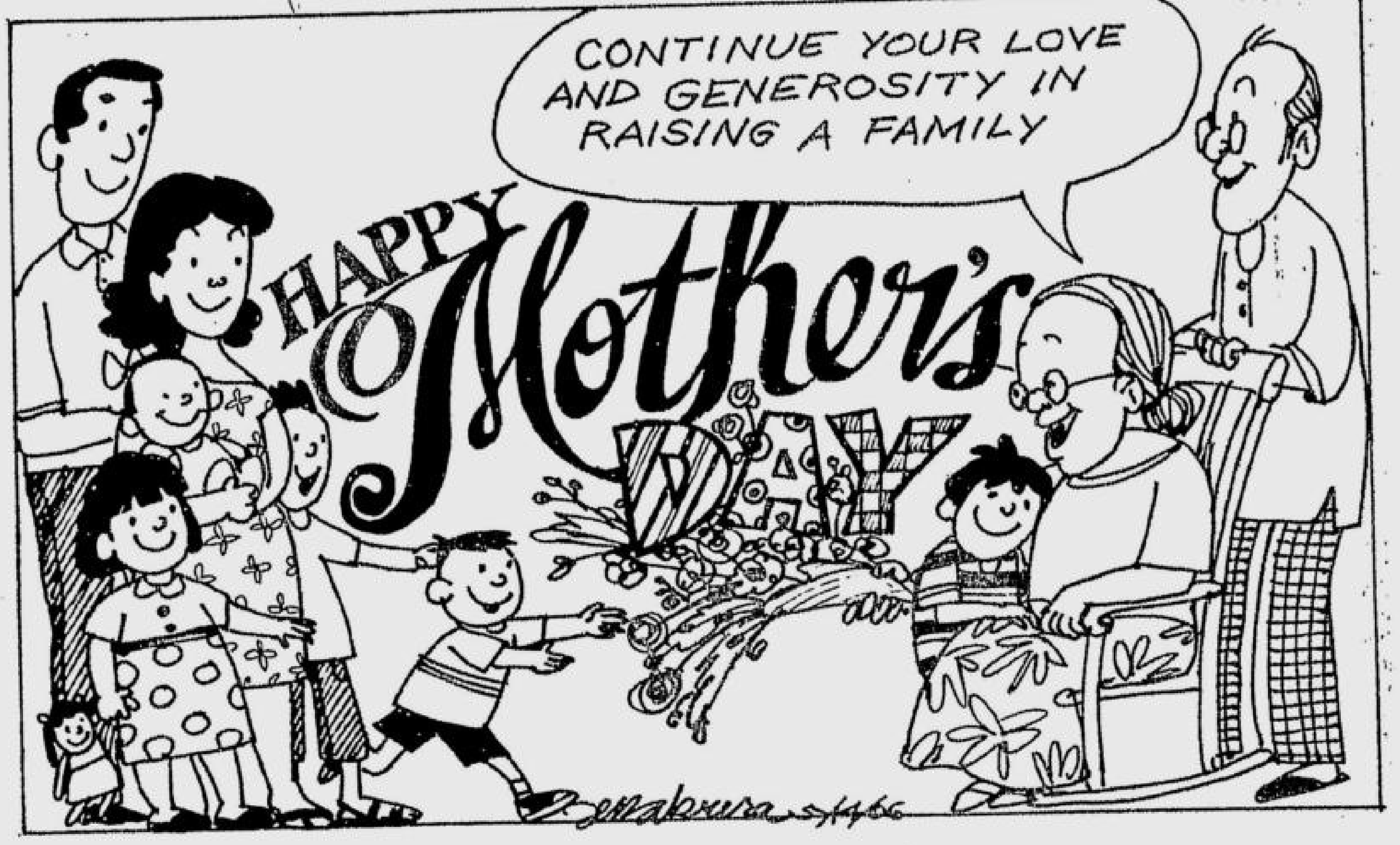
Perhaps, that is why we are suffering a terrible malaise of spirit. We may not be as willing as in February 1986 or January 2001 to think beyond the small groups we are part of.

This heritage of smallness leads the bishops to recommend a "spirituality of citizenship," which "fosters a sense of patriotism and of being responsible for our country"—in other words, the greater good.

This seems unobjectionable, even obvious. On the level of the practical, however, the Arroyo administration cannot be completely happy with this emphasis, or indeed with the bishops' declaration of 2006 as the "Year of Social Concerns."

The bishops see the erosion of trust in political institutions as a priority problem. But (to discuss only one example) the "thorough reform of the Commission on Elections" that they propose is an issue on which the Arroyo administration is publicly perceived to be resisting. It was President Macapagal-Arroyo, whom a majority of Filipinos believe benefited from election fraud in 2004, who appointed the controversial Benjamin Abalos and the even more controversial Virgilio Garcillano to the Comelec. And it is the President who, fairly or not, is perceived as failing (or even unwilling) to exert her moral suasion on Abalos et al. to resign from the commission.

The bishops' continuing insistence on a cleansing of the electoral process—or, indeed, on related election issues such as the publication of the Mayuga report or the continued investigation into the fertilizer fund scandal—can only put the administration on the defensive.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HAPPY Mother's DAY

Requiem for a tyrannical 'decree'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE STORY IS TOLD THAT WHENEVER THE early US Supreme Court deliberated on a case, Chief Justice John Marshall would, after convincing the justices to decide as he had suggested, conclusively declare: "So this is our decision. Let Brother Story find the jurisprudence to support it." Justice Joseph Story would then listen to the voice of ancient judges speaking to the future and prepare the opinion of the Court that would become the law of the land.

True or not, the anecdote gives us an idea of how the Supreme Court before arrived at its rulings. Marshall was especially imposing and must have provided an excellent example to his successors. The procedure may have changed over the years but not, I suppose, the leadership expected of the Chief Justice in imprinting his own sense of justice on the legal philosophy of the tribunal that would bear his name.

I recall watching with much pleasure the video play entitled "Separate But Equal" that dramatized how Chief Justice Earl Warren tried hard, in the end successfully, to persuade the members of his Court to unanimously grant the petition in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, 349 US 294, that ended racial segregation in the public schools in the United States.

The landmark case abrogated the old "separate but equal" doctrine that justified the separation of white and black students in such schools as long as they enjoyed equal facilities and conveniences. It was a widely-protested ruling that was nevertheless enforced for decades until the Warren Court finally reversed it. It held that such separation created in the black students a feeling of inferiority that violated the equal protection clause, besides being factually inaccurate.

On several occasions in this column, I have criticized the conduct of some so-called heads of collegiate bodies in the government for not exercising leadership over their colleagues in arriving at their collective action. One of them called me up to argue that he was only the presiding officer of his group and had to respect the views of the other members in their discussions and decisions. He said he was only being democratic.

I replied that his duty was not confined to the practically ministerial function of enforcing Robert's Rules of Order but, more importantly, involved his active leadership in the determination and enforcement of the policies of the body of which he was the accepted head. I stressed that **the leader must lead** as his title and status required.

The decision of our Supreme Court on the discredited Proclamation 1017 of President Macapagal-Arroyo was welcomed by the general citizenry, and I am happy to congratulate the justices who rendered it. I refer particularly to Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, who wrote the opinion of the Court, and to Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, who I am sure asserted his moral leadership, as well as his professional and personal influence, to insure the approval of the *ponencia*.

The victory of the petitioners in the case affirmed the vitality of our democracy, more so because it rejected no less than the President of the Philippines and her despised PP 1017. The fact that as many as 13 members of the Court owed their appointment and *utang na loob* to her did not dissuade them from acting in accordance with the bidding of their conscience and their understanding of the rule of law.

These remarks are by no means intended to criticize the three justices who dissented and defended President Arroyo. In fairness, it must be presumed that they acted in good faith and with worthy motives in upholding what their colleagues called an unconstitutional "decree."

I am especially proud of Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez, a friend from way back, who wrote the 81-page majority opinion in what is bound to be one of the outstanding decisions of our Supreme Court. It is a celebration of liberty and the supremacy of the Constitution over those who would traduce it.

Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez performed the yeoman work of analyzing the various issues raised, undertaking an extensive research on pertinent local and foreign jurisprudence, and painstakingly explaining the findings and conclusions of the Court. She did all these tasks with exceptional legal acumen and literary flair that commend her for admiration and emulation.

Her eloquent defense of our democracy would have succeeded on its own merits, but Chief Justice Panganiban's support for it must also be acknowledged and appreciated.

With his affable and humble observations and without the coercion of his superior rank, the Chief Justice must have convinced some hesitant colleagues to join the majority in voting against their powerful common benefactor. They might have seriously considered siding with the President of the Philippines as a token of official courtesy but were in the end deterred, and fittingly so, by the independent leader of the Panganiban Court.

I include in this tribute the recently bereaved Senior Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno, now on official leave of absence, whose vote, if he could have cast it, I would never have doubted or regretted.

The Supreme Court has reaffirmed its image as the citadel of law and justice and deserves the accolade of a grateful nation.

Pruning

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT THE POPE WHO drove the limousine himself as he ordered his driver to sit at the back of the car. The Pope stepped on the gas and before long he was stopped by the police. The arresting cop radioed his chief, saying: "Sir, I think I just busted someone very important! This driver claims he is the Pope, so his passenger at the back must be God!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 15, 1-8) Jesus reminds us that He is the vine, and we are the branches. As long as we know and accept our littleness and dependence on God, we will be all right. But if we play God, and begin acting like one, then we will not be at peace, and we will not bear much fruit in life. Let man be man, let God be God.

* * *

These days, there is a lot of talk about the movie "The Da Vinci Code." There have been, and there will always be gusts of strong wind that will shake our basic faith. Jesus reminds us today to remain in Him, and stay with Him. Let not life's storms separate us from the love of God. Jesus' instruction is clear: stay with me, no matter what, and come what may.

* * *

Not so much a lush life, but a fruitful life is what God wants for each of us, that's why He prunes us. A vine that is never pruned will occupy so much space, but it will not bear much fruit. There are people who are laden with branches of influence and leaves of wealth, living comfortable—but neither fruitful nor meaningful—lives.

* * *

We honor today all mothers who bore fruits with much love, pain and sacrifice. A mother knows what pruning is all about—from the time she conceives, gives birth and raises a child. Pruning goes on as the child grows up, becomes a teenager, gets involved in relationships and raises a family himself/herself. We can never, never fathom the depth and height of a mother's love. Only God knows and understands the seasons and the reasons of a mother's heart. *Mabuhay kayong mga nanay!*

* * *

Ali Sotto, Gina de Venecia, Ellen Remo, Odette Sacaben. These are just a few names in the long list of mothers who went through the special pruning of losing a child. The grief and the pain we can never understand or explain. Brave mothers, we call them. One mother I know in particular, Ms Nena Lopez, lost her three sons at their prime: Ricky at 37; Buddy at 42; and recently Ned at 44. What makes these mothers strong? They stay with God. They hold on to God's heart. Yes, they trust in God even, and especially, when they are pruned.

* * *

There is a story about a science teacher who was showing her Grade 2 students how a magnet would pick up nails and other bits of iron. At question time, she asked: "Class, my name begins with the letter 'M,' and I pick up things. What am I?"

A smart kid at the front row stood up and exclaimed: "You're a mother!"

Today, let us remember with gratitude our mothers who literally picked up things for us when we were young, and even now, in more ways than one, in ways we will never ever know.

* * *

"It isn't the thing you do dear, it's the thing you could have done, that leaves me with a bit of heartache at the setting of the sun." A beautiful reminder for children not to take for granted our mothers, and to express our love for them while there is time. Aside from expressing our appreciation of and love for our mothers, the best gift we can give them is our assurance to them that we will be all right, and that we are living fruitful lives.

* * *

If only you listened to your mother, what would you be, where would you be, how would you be now? Just asking. Find time today to go back, remember and renew your mother's wishes and dreams.

* * *

And how about our motherland? How much more pruning do we have to endure before we become a peaceful, fruitful land? First and foremost, our leaders must be pruned, otherwise they will continue pruning us for their own selfish, worldly agenda. One with you in hope, in work and in prayer till our motherland abounds with grateful, joyful daughters and sons.

* * *

Let me end with an anecdote I heard from my friend James Lansang. According to him, a nervous sinner was surprised when Jesus met him at the gates of heaven and warmly welcomed Him.

"You know me, Lord? I'm going in Lord?" asked the sinner.

"Oh yes, I know you. I welcome you. My mother has been telling me all about you," said the Lord.

"But I don't even know much about your mother," protested the sinner.

"That's all right. Your mother has been telling my mother so many things about you," said the Lord with a smile.

A mother's prayer is powerful. The Blessed Mother's prayer is very powerful. Happy Mother's Day!

* * *

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* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, remind me that there cannot be fruit-bearing without painful pruning. Amen.

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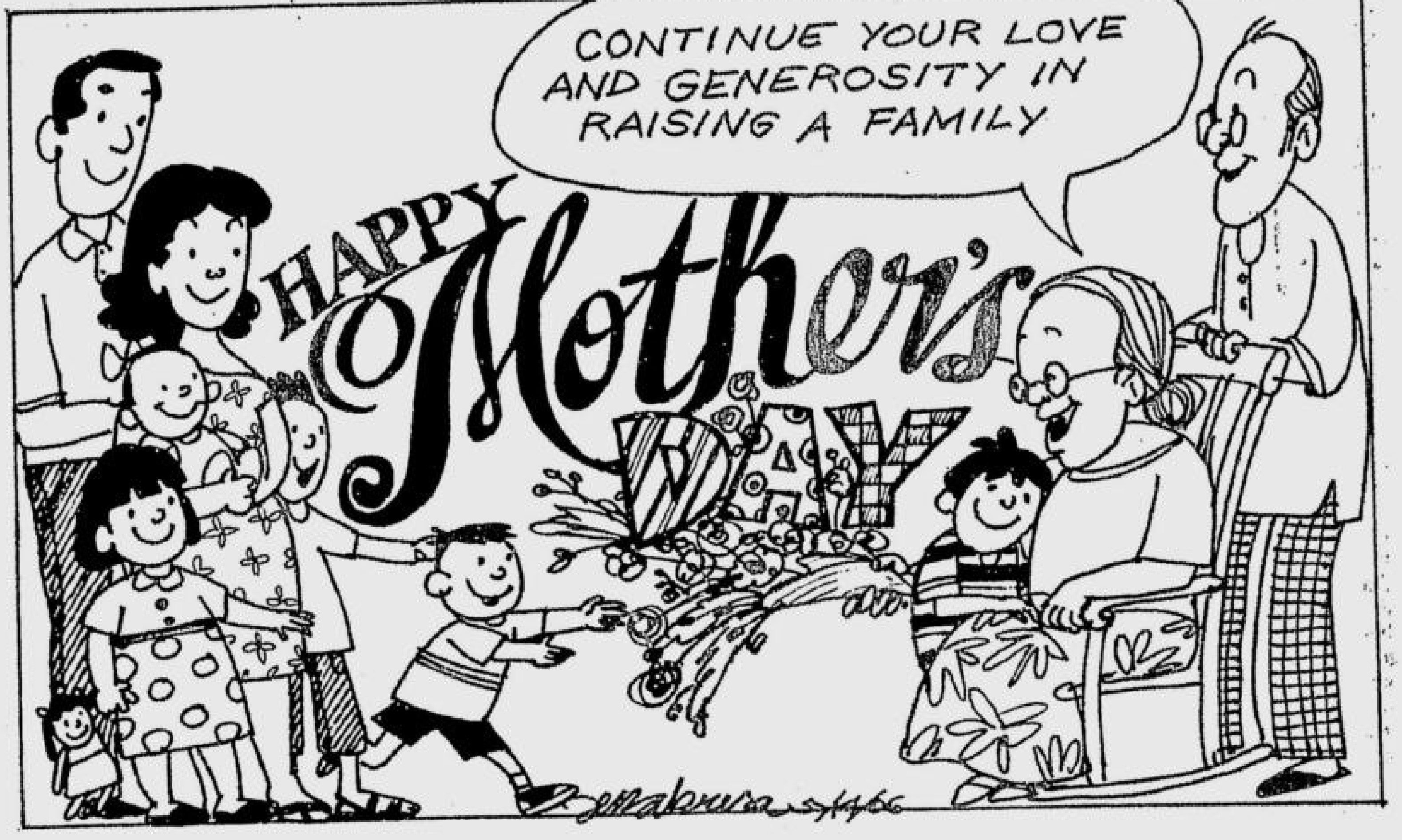

CONTINUE YOUR LOVE AND GENEROSITY IN RAISING A FAMILY
HAPPY Mother's DAY
Benabrusa 5/14/06

'Terrible malaise'

EDITORIAL

THE LATEST PASTORAL STATEMENT FROM THE country's influential Catholic bishops landed in the news pages last week for their "political" views: for their praise of the Supreme Court's decisions on Executive Order 464 and Presidential Proclamation 1017, for their confession of continuing unease over the "deceptive" signature campaign for Charter change, for their "full disclosure" position on the controversial Mayuga report.

These views—carefully couched as a "call to action from a moral standpoint"—revolve around a central, crucial theme: the "need to restore trust in our political institutions 'which are perceived by many to be corrupted'." The views are certainly newsworthy, in part because of the role the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines has played in our recent history.

But the "pastoral exhortation" does not limit itself to these views; in fact, these views are only a part of the statement, which the bishops released, under CBCP president Archbishop Angel Lagdameo's signature, to issue guidelines on how to observe the "Year of Social Concerns."

The statement does not mince words. It describes the national situation in bleak terms: "Political turmoil, moral corruption, and environmental degradation have worsened massive poverty and scandalous social inequality." It acknowledges what we may call a growing sense of learned helplessness. "We are today especially concerned about a pervasive sense of weariness, cynicism, and hopelessness among many of our people." And it does not shirk from asking the necessary questions: "What can we, must we, as Church do to heal this terrible malaise of spirit? What more can we do to help our people, especially the poor, believe that there is hope?"

The rest of the pastoral statement can be understood as an attempt to answer these pivotal questions. Some of the answers are overarching and positively philosophical (building character, building community); others are specific and practical (training programs for good governance, *bantay-dagat* or ocean watch movements).

Perhaps the most striking part of the statement is the bishops' reminder to the faithful about a cultural failing that persists to this day: "Fifteen years ago, we pointed out that the ruinous divisiveness in our country is rooted in a culture 'too focused on the good of small social groups' ... on the good of those we identify with, our families, our town-mates, our province-mates, etc."

To this list we can add: our parties, our "camps," our alliances and coalitions, the sides we take.

Perhaps, that is why we are suffering a terrible malaise of spirit. We may not be as willing as in February 1986 or January 2001 to think beyond the small groups we are part of.

This heritage of smallness leads the bishops to recommend a "spirituality of citizenship," which "fosters a sense of patriotism and of being responsible for our country"—in other words, the greater good.

This seems unobjectionable, even obvious. On the level of the practical, however, the Arroyo administration cannot be completely happy with this emphasis, or indeed with the bishops' declaration of 2006 as the "Year of Social Concerns."

The bishops see the erosion of trust in political institutions as a priority problem. But (to discuss only one example) the "thorough reform of the Commission on Elections" that they propose is an issue on which the Arroyo administration is publicly perceived to be resisting. It was President Macapagal-Arroyo, whom a majority of Filipinos believe benefited from election fraud in 2004, who appointed the controversial Benjamin Abalos and the even more controversial Virgilio Garcillano to the Comelec. And it is the President who, fairly or not, is perceived as failing (or even unwilling) to exert her moral suasion on Abalos et al. to resign from the commission.

The bishops' continuing insistence on a cleansing of the electoral process—or, indeed, on related election issues such as the publication of the Mayuga report or the continued investigation into the fertilizer fund scandal—can only put the administration on the defensive.

Requiem for a tyrannical 'decree'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE STORY IS TOLD THAT WHENEVER THE early US Supreme Court deliberated on a case, Chief Justice John Marshall would, after convincing the justices to decide as he had suggested, conclusively declare: "So this is our decision. Let Brother Story find the jurisprudence to support it." Justice Joseph Story would then listen to the voice of ancient judges speaking to the future and prepare the opinion of the Court that would become the law of the land.

True or not, the anecdote gives us an idea of how the Supreme Court before arrived at its rulings. Marshall was especially imposing and must have provided an excellent example to his successors. The procedure may have changed over the years but not, I suppose, the leadership expected of the Chief Justice in imprinting his own sense of justice on the legal philosophy of the tribunal that would bear his name.

I recall watching with much pleasure the video play entitled "Separate But Equal" that dramatized how Chief Justice Earl Warren tried hard, in the end successfully, to persuade the members of his Court to unanimously grant the petition in Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, 349 US 294, that ended racial segregation in the public schools in the United States.

The landmark case abrogated the old "separate but equal" doctrine that justified the separation of white and black students in such schools as long as they enjoyed equal facilities and conveniences. It was a widely-protested ruling that was nevertheless enforced for decades until the Warren Court finally reversed it. It held that such separation created in the black students a feeling of inferiority that violated the equal protection clause, besides being factually inaccurate.

On several occasions in this column, I have criticized the conduct of some so-called heads of collegiate bodies in the government for not exercising leadership over their colleagues in arriving at their collective action. One of them called me up to argue that he was only the presiding officer of his group and had to respect the views of the other members in their discussions and decisions. He said he was only being democratic.

I replied that his duty was not confined to the practically ministerial function of enforcing Robert's Rules of Order but, more importantly, involved his active leadership in the determination and enforcement of the policies of the body of which he was the accepted head. I stressed that **the leader must lead** as his title and status required.

The decision of our Supreme Court on the discredited Proclamation 1017 of President Macapagal-Arroyo was welcomed by the general citizenry, and I am happy to congratulate the justices who rendered it. I refer particularly to Justice Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez, who wrote the opinion of the Court, and to Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban, who I am sure asserted his moral leadership, as well as his professional and personal influence, to insure the approval of the *ponencia*.

The victory of the petitioners in the case affirmed the vitality of our democracy, more so because it rejected no less than the President of the Philippines and her despised PP 1017. The fact that as many as 13 members of the Court owed their appointment and *utang na loob* to her did not dissuade them from acting in accordance with the bidding of their conscience and their understanding of the rule of law.

These remarks are by no means intended to criticize the three justices who dissented and defended President Arroyo. In fairness, it must be presumed that they acted in good faith and with worthy motives in upholding what their colleagues called an unconstitutional "decree."

I am especially proud of Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez, a friend from way back, who wrote the 81-page majority opinion in what is bound to be one of the outstanding decisions of our Supreme Court. It is a celebration of liberty and the supremacy of the Constitution over those who would traduce it.

Justice Sandoval-Gutierrez performed the yeoman work of analyzing the various issues raised, undertaking an extensive research on pertinent local and foreign jurisprudence, and painstakingly explaining the findings and conclusions of the Court. She did all these tasks with exceptional legal acumen and literary flair that commend her for admiration and emulation.

Her eloquent defense of our democracy would have succeeded on its own merits, but Chief Justice Panganiban's support for it must also be acknowledged and appreciated.

With his affable and humble observations and without the coercion of his superior rank, the Chief Justice must have convinced some hesitant colleagues to join the majority in voting against their powerful common benefactor. They might have seriously considered siding with the President of the Philippines as a token of official courtesy but were in the end deterred, and fittingly so, by the independent leader of the Panganiban Court.

I include in this tribute the recently bereaved Senior Associate Justice Reynato S. Puno, now on official leave of absence, whose vote, if he could have cast it, I would never have doubted or regretted.

The Supreme Court has reaffirmed its image as the citadel of law and justice and deserves the accolade of a grateful nation.

Pruning

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT THE POPE WHO drove the limousine himself as he ordered his driver to sit at the back of the car. The Pope stepped on the gas and before long he was stopped by the police. The arresting cop radioed his chief, saying: "Sir, I think I just busted someone very important! This driver claims he is the Pope, so his passenger at the back must be God!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Jn. 15, 1-8) Jesus reminds us that He is the vine, and we are the branches. As long as we know and accept our littleness and dependence on God, we will be all right. But if we play God, and begin acting like one, then we will not be at peace, and we will not bear much fruit in life. Let man be man, let God be God.

* * *

These days, there is a lot of talk about the movie "The Da Vinci Code." There have been, and there will always be gusts of strong wind that will shake our basic faith. Jesus reminds us today to remain in Him, and stay with Him. Let not life's storms separate us from the love of God. Jesus' instruction is clear: stay with me, no matter what, and come what may.

* * *

Not so much a lush life, but a fruitful life is what God wants for each of us, that's why He prunes us. A vine that is never pruned will occupy so much space, but it will not bear much fruit. There are people who are laden with branches of influence and leaves of wealth, living comfortable—but neither fruitful nor meaningful—lives.

* * *

We honor today all mothers who bore fruits with much love, pain and sacrifice. A mother knows what pruning is all about—from the time she conceives, gives birth and raises a child. Pruning goes on as the child grows up, becomes a teenager, gets involved in relationships and raises a family himself/herself. We can never, never fathom the depth and height of a mother's love. Only God knows and understands the seasons and the reasons of a mother's heart. *Mabuhay kayong mga nanay!*

* * *

Ali Sotto, Gina de Venecia, Ellen Remo, Odette Sacaben. These are just a few names in the long list of mothers who went through the special pruning of losing a child. The grief and the pain we can never understand or explain. Brave mothers, we call them. One mother I know in particular, Ms Nena Lopez, lost her three sons at their prime: Ricky at 37; Buddy at 42; and recently Ned at 44. What makes these mothers strong? They stay with God. They hold on to God's heart. Yes, they trust in God even, and especially, when they are pruned.

* * *

There is a story about a science teacher who was showing her Grade 2 students how a magnet would pick up nails and other bits of iron. At question time, she asked: "Class, my name begins with the letter 'M,' and I pick up things. What am I?"

A smart kid at the front row stood up and exclaimed: "You're a mother!"

Today, let us remember with gratitude our mothers who literally picked up things for us when we were young, and even now, in more ways than one, in ways we will never ever know.

* * *

"It isn't the thing you do dear, it's the thing you could have done, that leaves me with a bit of heartache at the setting of the sun." A beautiful reminder for children not to take for granted our mothers, and to express our love for them while there is time. Aside from expressing our appreciation of and love for our mothers, the best gift we can give them is our assurance to them that we will be all right, and that we are living fruitful lives.

* * *

If only you listened to your mother, what would you be, where would you be, how would you be now? Just asking. Find time today to go back, remember and renew your mother's wishes and dreams.

* * *

And how about our motherland? How much more pruning do we have to endure before we become a peaceful, fruitful land? First and foremost, our leaders must be pruned, otherwise they will continue pruning us for their own selfish, worldly agenda. One with you in hope, in work and in prayer till our motherland abounds with grateful, joyful daughters and sons.

* * *

Let me end with an anecdote I heard from my friend James Lansang. According to him, a nervous sinner was surprised when Jesus met him at the gates of heaven and warmly welcomed Him.

"You know me, Lord? I'm going in Lord?" asked the sinner.

"Oh yes, I know you. I welcome you. My mother has been telling me all about you," said the Lord.

"But I don't even know much about your mother," protested the sinner.

"That's all right. Your mother has been telling my mother so many things about you," said the Lord with a smile.

A mother's prayer is powerful. The Blessed Mother's prayer is very powerful. Happy Mother's Day!

* * *

For your prayer requests just type F J REQ <message> then send to 2948 for Globe and Sun, and 3940 for Smart. To know more about Fr. Jerry's text service, type FR. JERRY then send to 2948 for Globe and Sun, and 3940 for Smart.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:
Lord, remind me that there cannot be fruit-bearing without painful pruning. Amen.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Cha-cha and the AFP laundry allowance

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

LAST THURSDAY, THE BIG GUNS OF THE administration, led by Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita, a former vice chief of staff and member of PMA class 1957, met some members of the Association of Generals and Flag Officers (Agfo) at Camp Aguinaldo to urge the AFP and PNP to support Charter change. Ermita was accompanied by two Cha-cha advocacy commissioners, Raul Lambino and Romela Bengzon. The most prominent among those who attended the meeting were the AFP Vice Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Antonio Romero, and PNP Deputy Director General for Operations Avelino Razon Jr., both on active status. I make special mention of these two senior officers and their current positions because the administration, particularly Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz, recently came out with statements about wanting to keep the military and police forces insulated from politics, in order to allow them to remain "apolitical." Charter change is one of the most controversial and politically charged issues of the day. But apparently, administration officials, whenever it is convenient for them to do so, will not hesitate to politicize further the security forces of the nation.

For the benefit of all our soldiers and policemen, retired or on active status, let me mention one of the reasons given by Lambino for them to support Cha-cha. Lambino said, "They (referring to soldiers) should support Charter change because they are suffering so much. They are not receiving good benefits. Imagine, their laundry allowance is only P13." (PDI, 5/12/06) It appears that we have to revise the Constitution in order to be able to increase the laundry allowance of our soldiers. Lambino added that the perennial complaint of soldiers about low pay would also be solved by changing the system of government.

Lambino reminds me of the traditional politician asking for votes. He says, "Your road is terrible. Vote for me and I promise you a better road." Unfortunately, we all know what happens after the elections.

Ermita defended the meeting, saying it was more of an information campaign intended for the officers. It would have served a higher purpose of educating our soldiers on the different aspects of Cha-cha if the opposing sides in the Cha-cha issue had been given the opportunity to present their respective arguments. But obviously, that was not the objective of the presentation.

So, let me try to present part of the other side of the coin.

It is not the system of government that has kept our people in poverty but the brand of politics of the ruling classes. Even if we change our form of government from presidential to parliamentary, if our society is not transformed, we will still have the old dog but with a different collar. In fact, things may become worse. At least under the presidential setup, we have a system of checks and balances to ensure that no one branch becomes too powerful. Sometimes, a gridlock may ensue, resulting in a great sense of frustration among our people.

But under the parliamentary system, we will have an unstoppable administration bullet train, with no one to stop it. Would you rather face a speeding train, or a gridlock every now and then? Not very attractive choices but at least the latter gives you an opportunity for compromise and possibly, for some progress later. With a speeding train operated by corrupt engineers, you are virtually a dead duck. For all its perceived weaknesses, the presidential system has counterbalancing forces that serve as a check on the executive branch.

* * *

A few months ago, Vicente Paterno, a respected member of the business community, sent this statement to friends and associates. "I have notified members of the former ConCom that I dissociate myself from all ConCom activities and will oppose Charter Change. For I am now fully convinced that Mrs. Arroyo seeks not only to retain her Presidency but (also) to expand her powers through Charter Change. Article XX, (containing) the transitory provisions, clearly defines the strong motivations for Mrs. Arroyo's determined efforts to get Cha-Cha ratified. Section 13 of this Article provides that 'in the interim parliament, the incumbent President shall exercise the powers vested in the head of state and the head of government under this Constitution.'"

* * *

Perhaps my main problem with Charter change at this time is basically a mistrust of the people behind it. This is the same company that gave us Benjamin Abalos, Joc Joc Bolante and Virgilio Garcillano. Under Abalos, instead of having a computerized electoral system, we lost almost a billion pesos in a deal described by the Supreme Court as having "desecrated legal and jurisprudential norms," and we ended up with the old manual system of vote tabulations. The Commission on Audit recently questioned the credibility of the recipients of the P728 million in fertilizer funds released under the stewardship of Bolante at the Department of Agriculture, just before the 2004 elections. With so many qualified individuals available, Garcillano was appointed Comelec commissioner in time for the 2004 presidential race. And we got the "Hello Garci" controversy.

Sorry for repeating myself, but we have to continually remind our people, even in the face of what appears to be good news, that these cases, which symbolize the great ills of our society, have had no closure until now. All the noise about Charter change may be simply a ploy to shift attention from the shenanigans of these three characters.

I want to be a 'lola'!

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I'M DONE with motherhood. The way I see it, I've done my share for humanity. I've given birth to two persons—achieved replacement fertility, as demographers might put it—and raised them into healthy (too healthy, some might say) and reasonably productive adults. I have not contributed to the crime rate by raising sociopaths; neither have I foisted another politician on society (though I don't know, my daughter is a debater and could conceivably turn her attention to politics, though I pray not).

I've done my bit, though with some help from the hubby (a lot of help there), a succession of *yayas*, relatives and friends, teachers and books, movies and TV. On this day, I might be excused if I feel a measure of entitlement. The world owes me big-time—and I'm not talking special lunch or dinner menus, flowers, a scarf or a hand-made card either.

I want a grandchild.

Someone once said that if she'd known being a *lola* would be such fun, she would have gone straight to having grandchildren and skipped the whole motherhood thing altogether. Others have said that grandchildren are the fringe benefits of parenthood, the reward we mothers and fathers get for bearing (and bearing with) our children.

I want a grandchild and for wholly selfish reasons, too. I want to be able to help raise an infant who will bring me back to the days of my children's infancy, when a whiff of their baby fragrance—pure and clean skin smell with a hint of baby powder—was enough to drive away thoughts of sleepless nights and cracked nipples. I want to buy itty-bitty sized soft shoes and tiny flannel shirts and a whole paraphernalia of toys and equipment, especially now when I have the income to indulge my fancy.

* * *

MOST of all, I want to spoil some kids, because everyone told me I shouldn't do that with my own progeny.

I want to buy them ice cream an hour before a meal. I want to play dress up and role play while I'm reading a book aloud to them at bedtime. I want them to know that I am absolutely crazy about them, because I read somewhere that every child deserved an adult in his or her life, who was just absolutely bonkers over that child. I want to love them unconditionally, without the obligation toward a child's character formation that parents are burdened with.

In short, I'm going to be a pest, someone who will subvert my children's efforts to discipline their children, to teach them good habits, and to hew to social expectations and polite behavior. And then, at night, when I am tired, or when the parents get home from work, I will be able to walk away (ha!) and hand over to my kids their fussy, picky, noisy, rambunctious and sassy children and watch them try to undo the damage. Best of all, if I play my cards right, my grandkids will end up loving me back!

The mother's law of karma: "When you have kids, I hope they turn out just like you."

* * *

YOU must understand, though, that I'll be making up my own rules of grandmotherhood as I go along.

I never had a chance to enjoy being someone's *apo* because my own grandparents on both sides died before I was born or soon after. My Lola Eming, my Mama's mother, died when I was 3 years old, and about the only memories I have of her are a photo of her at my third birthday party and the stories my aunts and cousins traded over the years.

Even my own kids didn't have much of a chance to be spoiled by their grandparents. Mama died when my son, my firstborn, was just six months old; and Papa followed barely three years later. My husband's Daddy Maning passed away even before we were married, and Mommy Marty was already living in New York when our kids were born.

That's why even now, long before (but not too long, I hope) the grandchildren are even a gleam in the eyes of my children and their future spouses, I'm concocting evil plans and mischievous escapades. I'm plotting ways to get my hands on my *apos* as much as I can, cognizant that there are two pairs of competitors (my future in-laws) I will have to contest for the grandkids' time, attention and love.

I really don't know how my children would rate me as a mother. Or what measurements they might use to gauge my fitness for the role. I'm perfectly content knowing that, at least, I get a passing grade—they survived to adulthood, didn't they?

What I do know, though, is that I plan to be an outstanding *lola*, one my *apos* will be remembering and talking about with their own *apos*—if they should be so lucky.

* * *

IN HIS prime, Elvis Presley was sexual danger personified. His full-lipped good looks, pelvic gyrations and intense gaze drove many young women to fervid distraction, and many parents to horrified concern.

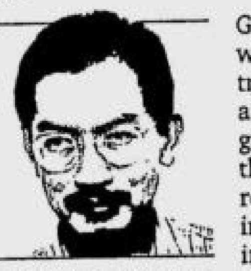
Fortunately, there was Paul Anka, a younger pop singer/composer who presented a much more wholesome alternative to the dark and dangerous Elvis. I remember my sister Neneng—an Elvis fanatic—engaged in earnest debate with our cousin Lulu—who was devoted to Paul Anka—about who was the better performer and the better singer. Sadly, Lulu conceded too readily on Anka's looks. No contest there!

Still, luckily for us, Paul Anka is in the country, performing in a concert tonight and tomorrow night at the Araneta Coliseum, and ready to bring Filipinos back to the days when they "danced, romanced, reminisced or simply enjoyed listening to the songs he created." Among his better-known hits: "Diana," "Lonely Boy," "My Home Town" and "Having My Baby."

Anka also wrote "My Way," the "national anthem" of videoke-crazy Pinoys, for whom singing this standard is an open invitation to mayhem and murder. I hope, though, no one is driven to murderous rage when they hear the creator belt out his best-known song!

The thinking soldier

PUBLIC LIVES



Randy David

ON JAN. 19, 2001, THE CHIEF OF STAFF OF THE Armed Forces of the Philippines, Gen. Angelo T. Reyes, went up the Edsa Shrine with the service commanders of the AFP to announce their withdrawal of support for their commander in chief, President Joseph "Erap" Estrada. That act tilted the balance against the incumbent president and precipitated his ouster from Malacañang.

General Reyes said that he regarded Erap as a personal friend, and that it pained him to turn his back on his friend at a most crucial point in his political life. He did not want the public to see him as someone who thinks nothing of betraying a friend. And so he felt compelled to write a personal account of what happened. The INQUIRER published this in four installments in March 2001, under the title "The 11th Hour Decision."

This reflective narration discusses in detail how Reyes, who had retired by then and become the new secretary of defense, arrived at his decision. At the time of Edsa II, I took his account at face value and glossed over the many questions that a critical reading would have raised. Reading this document five years later against the background of recent events, I now realize how, indeed, past events acquire new meanings in the light of the present.

Reyes explains how he makes critical decisions. He takes off from Descartes' famous "Cogito ergo sum" (I think, therefore I am). "In my case, it might be said in a slightly facetious vein: I think—that's been my problem." The way the general says it, it's almost as if thinking were an affliction for a soldier. "Life would have been much simpler for me perhaps if I thought less and, like the stereotype of the soldier, just contented myself with following orders or reacting to events as they unfold. That way, I would not run the risk of wading into political waters, which conventional wisdom deems taboo for men in uniform.

"We made the decision because it was the only constitutional option left to avert a colossal disaster for the nation." The constitutionality of a military withdrawal of allegiance from a duly elected President is far from self-evident. What could possibly justify it? Let's examine some of the events in the general's narration.

Reyes says he "did not plot against the Estrada government." I think we may grant him that. But was he aware that other elements in the military were actively plotting to unseat Erap? What did he do about it? "My decision was not directed against the government. It was to protect the government against forces ready to take advantage of the situation for their own ends." Who were these forces? The usual suspects—the NPA? Or AFP officers working hand in hand with politicians? Reyes does not give explicit answers, but he does provide enough details to allow us to fill in the blanks.

First, there was the surprise visit from "Alan Ortiz, a close adviser of then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on economic and security matters." The purpose of the visit was "to invite me to touch base with the Vice President to reach a common level of understanding should the political situation turn from bad to worse." Reyes says he turned down the invitation as improper. "I explained to Mr. Ortiz that if I can do that behind the President's back, then the same thing could happen to Vice President Arroyo should she become chief executive herself one day." General Reyes says that his guest went away convinced that he was right.

Second, Col. Victor Corpus and Col. Gerry Cunanan had told him about restiveness in the military. "Specifically, they informed me about the earlier reported covert attempts of Marine Lt. Gen. Edgardo Espinosa, prodded by elements within the United Opposition, at organizing troops to move against the Estrada government, as well as reports that the RAM and some retired generals were mobilizing their contacts within the AFP and the PNP." In response, Reyes says he reiterated the need to keep the chain of command intact. One wonders, however, if he ordered the investigation of General Espinosa, an officer known to be very close to Ms Arroyo.

Third, following the prosecutors' walkout at the impeachment trial, Reyes recounts that he received intelligence reports "that New People's Army (NPA) operatives were coming in from the North and that extreme rightist elements were plotting to set up a military junta." In response to these reports, he says he ordered the drafting of a contingency plan. But he also contacted "retired General Renato de Villa, one of the closest aides of Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo, to get a picture of the situation from the United Opposition's point of view."

Reyes was aware that he could "have decided not to do anything and still be probably right." If the military had not intervened, I think chances are Erap would still have resigned and stepped down from the presidency in the face of public pressure. Of course, like Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo five years later, he could also have declared a state of emergency and ordered the military to disperse the crowd at Edsa. Reyes did not want to wait for that moment. He preempted it by switching sides. In the process, he compromised the political neutrality of the military. As an Edsa II participant, I was jolted by the appearance of the military at the Edsa Shrine. I think it set a dangerous precedent.

It is good to have thinking soldiers. But somehow I'm reminded of what Nietzsche once said: "Watch out! He reflects—in a moment he will be ready with a lie." I'm not saying that the general lies in his account, but he simplifies too much.

* * *

Comments to public.lives@gmail.com

Sun, sand and pens

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

"CALL ME MOM," SHE SAID, DURING HER TURN IN THE round of introductions.

I've found out that I couldn't—how does one dare call National Artist for Literature Edith Tiempo "Mom"? It's like calling God "Daddy." I've gone for the next best thing—Ma'am Tiempo. I figured it would pass for the same thing.

She walked into the workshop room in a hot pink, sleeveless blouse, a short swirling brown skirt, a huge aquamarine pendant hung on a lilac cord, and round *capiz* earrings. Ana, our camera-crazy fellow, took to taking pictures of Mum Edith while she wrote on the whiteboard—documenting history, so to speak. Mum Edith noticed the click of the camera lens and glanced over her shoulder: "Careful with my butt." And so our intrepid Ana zoomed in on the formidable posterior.

In 1962, renowned writing couple Edilberto and Edith Tiempo began the Dumaguete National Writers Workshop, the first in Asia. For three weeks in the summer, a selected number of fellows make a pilgrimage to Dumaguete to have their work studied by a panel of some of the best writers in the country, including Ma'am Tiempo herself. I've heard horror stories of people from other workshops, who have come away from sessions holding back tears and swearing never to write anything again. And so I sat through sessions, one hand tapping nervously on a chair-arm, the other writing notes, waiting for the other shoe to drop. The shoe did drop, several times in fact, but along with the painful criticism—all the more painful because of the truth—there's also gentle and not-so-gentle encouragement from Ma'am Edith along with literary giants Dr. Marj Evasco, Susan Lara, Cesar Ruiz Cruz, DM Reyes and Dr. Anthony Tan.

The fellows are an interesting bunch. There's Doug Candano, who discourses on international politics and literary criticism one minute, then scratches his head and stutters confusedly the next when someone mentions Judy Ann Santos. It's interesting to wonder how such a cherubic face can produce the subtlety and darkness that characterize his work. There's Larissa Suarez, the baby of the group, 17 years old and fresh out of high school, whose wide-eyed innocence belies the astonishing grasp of human emotion shown in her work. Then there's Mitch Sarile, the madonna with the mischievous smile, whose advice solves most of my financial woes at one go. "When there's free food, eat. They'll think you're a pig, but at least you're full." Photographic evidence (co-starring orange-flavored cookies, variations of pizza, and heavily spiced *sisig*) will attest to my utter belief in her philosophy.

There are poets Andrea Teran and Darwin Chiong, whose love for adventure has them posing beside No Parking signs in the dead of the night to the tune of Ana's clicking camera. There's Erin Cabanawan, whose quiet calm hides a dry wit that permeates even her stories. Dumaguete-based Dom Cimafranca plays tour guide, toothpaste supplier and babysitter, showing an unwavering patience to the volley of questions that range from where-to-eat to who-to-meet. Also Inno Habana, the pretty boy in a baseball cap with a penchant for horror.

And then there's Ana Neri, the 27-year-old Cebuana beauty with the face of a 17-year-old. Sometimes we catch her on her cell phone, whispering good night to her daughter. At the breakfast table, she passes Vitamin C to the sniffling Inno, and for good measure dispenses the pills to everyone in the table. Last but not least is 41-year-old Noel Pingoy, "Doc," the quiet, unassuming cancer specialist whose writing can wring tears from the toughest critic, and whose idea of a writing workshop involved five-inch-thick books and a board exam.

The world moves slowly here in Dumaguete. The stars are brighter, the people friendlier, and there is all the time in the world to sit by the sea and dream the world away. Two nights ago, I walked to the boulevard to sit by the sea while a light rain was beginning to fall. There I was, playing the role of melancholy writer, thinking of all the dozens of legendary writers who must have sat on that very spot. I could hear a narrator talking in my head—he sounded like Robert Redford.

"The young woman sat by the sea, her hair wafting in a light wind, eyes set on the horizon. The stars shone softly, but her mind was turbulent as the storm that had only just left. Suddenly she felt the touch of a hand on her shoulder, and a man loomed behind her." In the story, some great danger would be threatening, or a hero would be about to materialize.

Unfortunately, I write non-fiction, and, as Marj Evasco would say, non-fictionists never lie. So back to the story: "...a man loomed behind her. She turned around and met the eyes of a man with dripping hair. 'Miss, *alam po ba niyong basang-basa na kayo?*'"

And thus the great epiphany: my jeans were streaked with grime, my green shirt was dripping at the hem, and the hair "streaming in the wind" resembled lank clumps of seaweed. From romance to Horrors of the Deep.

A few months ago, I went through my grandfather's old library, his columns filed between green faux-leather covers and stamped in purple: "From the library of Mario Chanco." My hands were filmed with several layers of dust when it finally occurred to me how prolific he was. He wrote and he wrote and he wrote, but my mother said he would never have survived if not for my grandmother's business acumen and his racketing on the side. Art for art's sake sounds romantic when you're living with parents, but when you're on your own with rent and bills to pay, you're bound to jump for anything with a paycheck.

In two weeks, I fly back into the world of bills, traffic and the daily fear of the semi-unemployed. But that's still 336 hours away—time enough to walk by the lapping waves, dance to music nobody else hears and worship in the shrine of Filipino literary gods.

* * *

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THEY SAID

Delinquent parents

"I believe there are no delinquent children if there are no delinquent parents."

—Maria Salome Mangubat, officer in charge of the Regional Rehabilitation Center for Youth in Zamboanga del Norte, a place for children in conflict with the law

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.
Guest Editor Manuel L. Quezon III

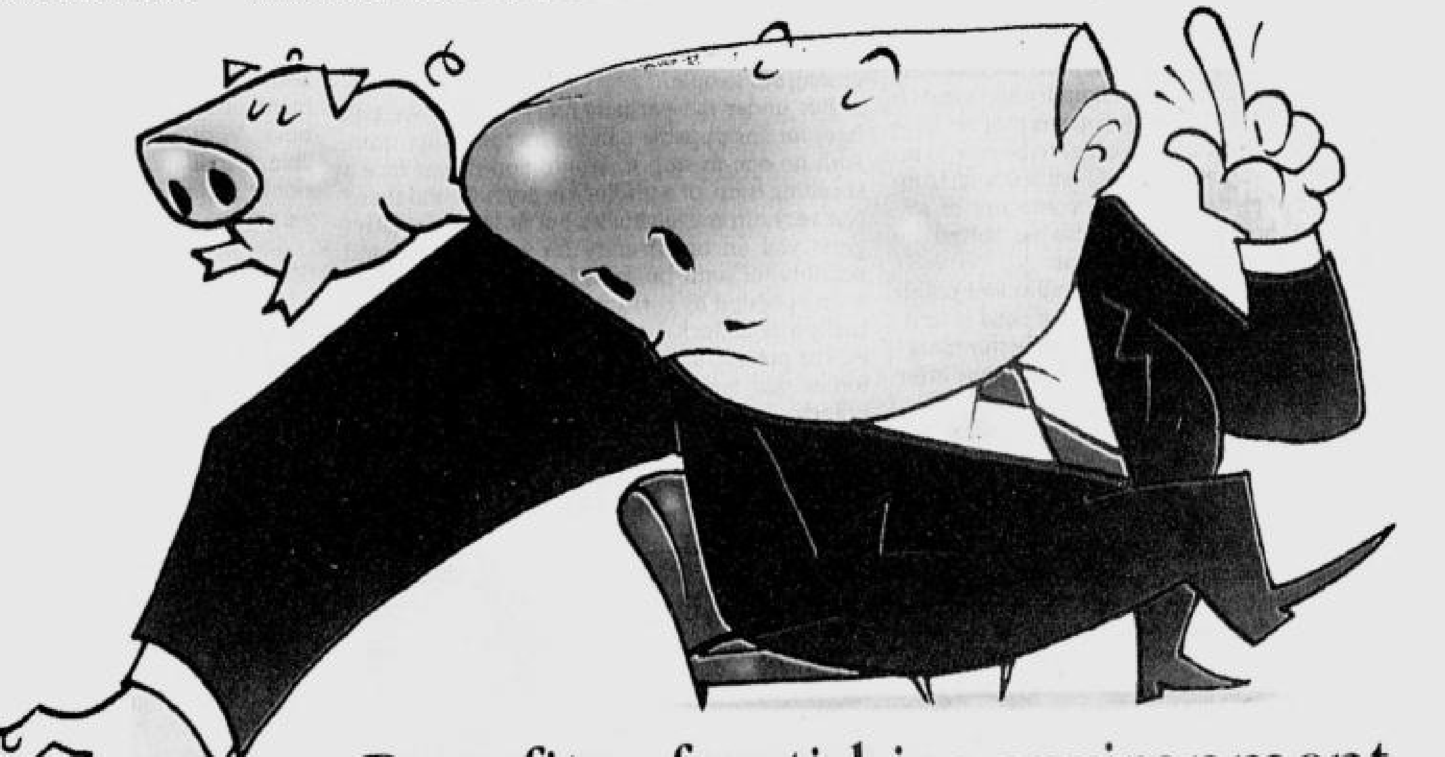
Multiculturalism and the Filipino

THE STORY BROKE IN A MONTREAL NEWSPAPER IN APRIL AND RAPIDLY BEcame a cause célèbre among Filipinos everywhere. Luc Cagadoc, a 7-year-old pupil at the École Lalande, was isolated and punished by a lunchtime day-care monitor. The response of the school's principal, Normand Bergeron, as quoted by Luc's mother, Maria Theresa Gallardo, sent Filipino tempers rising around the world.

"Madame, you are in Canada. Here in Canada you should eat the way Canadians eat," the Quebecois educator allegedly said, and went on to observe that Luc "ate like a pig." What was apparently swinish to Bergerond was that Luc insisted on eating as most Filipinos do—with a spoon and fork. The mother said that's cultural bigotry. The school countered that it wasn't the implements exactly in question, but rather, Luc's behavior, described as stubborn and difficult.

At the heart of the issue are really several things. For Canadians, the incident brings up questions of cultural tolerance, not only regarding Canada's large, and growing Asian immigrant community, but between the Anglo-Saxon culture of Toronto and the Francophone minority represented by Montreal: for Anglophile and Francophile, or simply Westernized Canadians in general, a member of minority Western culture bearing down heavily on a member of an Asian minority culture.

Of more immediate concern to Filipinos, however, is the question of maintaining cultural identity in the midst of the national diaspora overseas. And of how, in this day and age, educators and parents alike should find ways to work together to avoid traumatizing children who deserve more than to be made to feel inferior because of their parent's culture.



The spoon wars

By Michael L. Tan

MANY OF US WILL REMEMBER THE WAY WE WERE nagged by our elders about the polite way of holding our spoons. But hey, most of us were never told the spoon was only for soup and dessert. For Filipinos, and most Asians, spoons were the greatest invention ever. Throw away the knife and the fork but never the spoon, which we use for soups, desserts, vegetables, even to cut meat.

¡Que barbaridad! Hoy, Lupe, sez who? Anyone with a knowledge of culinary history can tell you the spoon was the first eating utensil to have been invented. Knives, well, they were originally invented as weapons, and then got reduced for the dining table. And the fork, the infamous fork that westerners insist is the main eating utensil? They come much later, introduced from the Middle East into southern Europe, but treated with disdain by the northern Europeans. In the 11th century a Greek princess who married into the Venetian aristocracy tried to introduce forks but was spurred as a heretic. She died shortly after and people whispered that was just punishment for daring to impose the fork on civilized society. It took a few more centuries before forks became acceptable to northern Europeans, including the British who then lent it as a cultural legacy to the Americans and Canadians.

Etiquette changes all the time because they're based on meanings we give to people, events, places. In earlier less civil times, meals could become quite violent so the last thing you needed were utensils brandished like weapons, which is why the Chinese resisted knives and forks and stuck to chopsticks. There were rules, too, on the use of chopsticks. For example, you're not supposed to stick them into your rice because they then look like incense sticks. And to whom do you offer incense sticks? The gods ... and the dead.

Rules are also needed for meals because they're quite messy affairs. After all, we're dealing with dead animals littered all over the table, their guts spilling out. So we end up developing all kinds of rules around preparing and serving the food. Westerners, for example, will never serve anything with eyes staring at you, so they behead their fish, chicken, turkey before serving.

There will be variations even with "Western" etiquette. To carve up the animal corpses on their plate, Americans hold the fork with the left hand and the knife with the right hand. After cutting up the meat, the fork is then transferred to the right hand, which is then used to spear the meat to eat. Europeans find this "zig-zag method" too much ado about nothing and say, goodness, keep the fork on your left hand and enjoy your food.

Now, how did we get into the trouble we're in now, with the spoon and the fork upsetting the Canadians? It's hard to say. The fact that our terms for our eating utensils are Spanish-derived (*kutsara, tinidor, kutsilyo*) tells us they came into formal use during the Spanish colonial period.

Bare hands were probably preferred by our precolonial ancestors, and probably remained the norm throughout the Spanish colonial period. When the Americans arrived, they were convinced eating with bare hands, rather than the Filipino-American war, was killing off the natives so they fielded Knife and Fork Teams in schools to save us. We resisted the knife-and-fork way and today, when we have Americans visiting, we bring them into Filipino restaurants where, much to their delight, they can eat with their bare hands, often forgetting to wash their hands first.

Dining rules become dining habits, and we forget their origins even as the habits become "us", part of our identity. A meal isn't a meal for Asians without the rice ... and a spoon and fork. Etiquette, well, that's all in the eye of the beholder. When you think about it, eating rice with a fork just doesn't work, with the rice, especially the loose North American varieties, slipping through. It's untidy and sloppy.

But don't worry, with 8 million Filipinos living and working in Canada and all kinds of other remote, savage lands, many infiltrating homes as nannies and cooks and housekeepers, we'll teach the world that the proper way of eating is with a spoon and a fork.

(Tan is an anthropologist and a professor in the University of the Philippines.)

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ/ PAGE DESIGN BY ERNIE SAMBO

Benefits of anti-bias environment

By Feny de los Angeles-Bautista

NOW MORE THAN EVER, MANY MORE SOCIETIES CAN BE DESCRIBED as multiculturally-diverse. And within that diversity, we can bet on the fact that there will be Filipinos among the different groups usually referred to as "minority groups." Filipinos in search of better options guarantees the continuous outward flow of Filipino migration combined with a broader geographical scope explored and reached by them.

In the United States, it has often been said that as migrants, Filipinos generally tend to assimilate and adapt easily to American culture and do not stand out as visibly and distinctly as the other Asian cultural groups. It has been observed that we prefer to blend in to the point of dissociating ourselves from Filipino culture altogether.

But when there is danger of an assault, or there is an act of aggression or exploitation against a member of our tribe, activity in the reptilian, territorial, part of our brain is triggered and we rise up to staunchly defend our kind and our cultural integrity. And that is, in fact, one of the many ways that people assert their own cultural identity. But this very "public" display of pride in our national identity and culture is rare. Only two or three incident come to mind. Was it an offensive remark about having a Filipina in his loft by actor Liam Neeson in a radio interview or was it a statement attributed to Tommy Hilfiger that sparked a similar cross-country, trans-Pacific outpouring of anger?

Yet there are surely many similar and even more extreme forms of discrimination and outright disregard for their human rights experienced by some of our *kababayans* in various spaces within the multicultural migrant societies in the countries they now call home. And sometimes these acts of discrimination and exclusion are committed by fellow Filipinos.

It would be deplorable and pathetic if these expressions of outrage were all that Filipino children—here in their home ground or elsewhere in the world—ever experienced as the most effective ways of asserting our cultural identity. To be sure, actions to eliminate inequity or seek justice for transgressions is part of an anti-bias education agenda and program. But there are less controversial, simpler and low-key but essential ways through which we can ensure Filipino children grow unhampered and weighed down by learned prejudice.

Developing awareness of one's own cultural identity, knowing that one belongs to a group and feeling a sense of pride in identifying with this group are prerequisites to becoming a healthy, emotionally stable and socially competent human being. This awareness and sense of identity must be achieved in early childhood—before a child enters preschool at age four or five and certainly before first grade.

A sense of identity, then, provides that secure base from which an individual can begin to work toward achieving the other important pre-requisite to becoming a truly humane, competent and productive citizen of the world: awareness of human and cultural diversity. Learning about human diversity also begins in early childhood but requires more time and more learning experiences throughout the middle childhood and adolescent years in order to be fully internalized.

We have come a long way from those days when many more were not proud to be Pinoy to these days when our children do have many more opportunities to celebrate and take pride in being Pinoy. Over two to three decades, with combined initiatives from various sectors, we have learned and are teaching our children and ourselves to know more and appreciate our own culturally diverse society. But I think we still fall short of providing our children and ourselves "all the tools" we need to achieve tolerance for human diversity.

We must face the fact that many Filipinos have learned and continue to pass on attitudes and behaviors that demonstrate how biased they are and that discriminate against others on the basis of race, cultural heritage, religion, age, gender, ability, socio-economic status. So it is the acquisition of those tools i.e. the information, the social skills, the feelings and attitudes that will spell the difference between tokenism and genuine civility and respect for human diversity. Random exposure will not do.

What we need is a pro-active anti-bias stance within a human rights framework and sustained, concrete efforts by those of us responsible for taking care of and teaching our children and youth. Beyond policies and programs on paper (which we are better at) this means support for concerted efforts to support parents and teachers and enable them to care for and teach children in ways that develop traits like compassion, openness, curiosity about people and their cultures, empathy and respect for others. This means as well helping them learn to be competent problem solvers, independent and critical thinkers and cooperative team players or group participants.

Schools must be pro-active and re-examine both the formal curriculum as well as the "hidden curriculum" or the social structure and dynamics that define relationships within the school. Often it is through school policies and rules or even activities that a subtle but powerful bias against people is communicated. Such cases negate all pro-multicultural diversity content and perpetuates discrimination on the basis of religion, family status (i.e. children of separated or divorced parents, social class, political orientation) in a manner that directly affects children.

Aside from schools, these critical reflection-action cycles within a proactive approach to overcoming prejudice must include all elements of a child's learning environment: the immediate community, the institutional community to which the family belongs (church, youth organizations), other learning resources and the media. The influential and ever-present forms and products of media that fill up the children's media landscape and practically engulf them during their waking hours should be critically assessed.

At its best, media can be a truly valuable and constructive force to be harnessed for the crucial task of rearing a generation of Filipinos who are better-prepared to play, work, live, love and learn in a world where human diversity can truly flourish. Twenty years ago "Batibot," the first all-Filipino children's program pioneered in this multicultural, anti-bias approach and was an active presence in the lives of at least two generations now proud to be Pinoy, and aware of, and open to, human and cultural diversity. It's time for a similar presence to be asserted in the lives of today's children.

Aside from the racial discrimination and disrespect for cultural practices, Luc Cagadoc and his mother separately experienced disregard for their rights as human beings, each in a different way yet based on the same source: assertion of power and dominance and abuse by a person in a position of authority.

Luc was a victim of a two-punch knock-out: the disastrous combination of the lunch monitor's ignorance about essential features of Filipino and Asian cultures and the monitor's ignorance about child development and implications for developmentally appropriate adult- child interaction. His mother was a victim of the principal's own cultural illiteracy (which I must add is not typical of Canadian educators) and his ineptness in dealing with parents both as competent adults and in ways that more fully engage them and show respect for them as necessary partners in children's care and education.

He applied the worst possible tactic of protecting his turf and staking his claim by wielding and abusing his authority (as principal and as a "native" Canadian). This unwarranted display and abuse of power is deeply rooted within and at the same time reinforces prejudice and bias against people who happen to be different from him and his kind. On the basis alone of incompetence and unprofessional behavior the school board should sanction this principal and transfer him to a school district in the Bronx or the inner cities of urban jungles like Bangkok and Metro Manila.

(Delos Angeles-Bautista is Executive Director of the Community of Learners Foundation.)

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LGUs urged to design population plans

BAGUIO CITY—LOCAL LEGISLATORS ARE urging local government units to develop their own population management programs while awaiting passage of House Bill No. 3773 or the Responsible Parenthood and Population Management Act of 2005.

Members of the Philippine Legislators Committee on Population and Development Foundation Inc. (PLCPD), who attended an assembly here on Friday, said the bill is not the national government's priority at this time.

PLCPD members—composed of representatives, provincial governors and vice governors, board members and town and city councilors—said local governments should draft and file their own ordinances to answer concerns on population and reproductive health in their areas to fill the void.

Nueva Ecija Rep. Josefina Joson said the bill has been pending since February last year.

Joson said the bill's deliberation has been delayed due to the lack of quorum and the opposition raised by some lawmakers.

"We went through a lot of trouble in pushing this bill. It is very important for this bill to be a part of [Congress'] agenda so the people will know the importance of population management and reproductive health," she said.

Earlier, Chi Vallido, deputy executive director of the Philippine Nongovernment Organizations Council for Health, Population, Health and Welfare (PNGOC), said the bill's supporters feared HB 3773 might become a casualty of the conflict between administration and opposition lawmakers.

Vallido said Albay Rep. Edcel Lagman, an ally of Ms Arroyo, is the principal author of HB 3773, while many of the bill's supporters are opposition lawmakers, like Cavite Rep. Gilbert Remulla and Akbayan Rep. Loretta Ann Rosales.

"We really do not know what is going to happen, but we have to work above [partisan politics] and look at the [importance of the] bill," Vallido said.

Joson said the bill's deliberation has been delayed because of the smear campaign against the bill. She said advocates of reproductive health like her are getting tired of hearing that HB 3773 is an "abortion bill."

"I clarified to the [Catholic] bishops that the bill does not include abortion as a family planning method, that we are also anti-abortion," she said.

"The bill also does not say that [a couple] should only have two children. It only suggests that having two children is the ideal size for the family, so the state could provide for their needs," Joson said.

Naga City Councilor Mila Raquid-Arroyo said local governments should not waste time waiting for a national policy to address the country's problems on population growth. *Desiree Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Data on slowing birth growth rate questioned

BAGUIO CITY—POPULATION and reproductive health advocates said the recent government announcement on the slowing down of the country's population growth rate was nothing short of a miracle.

"That has still to be proven. We need more evidence-based data," Eden Divinagracia, executive director of the Philippine Nongovernment Organizations Council for Population, Health and Welfare (PNGOC), told the INQUIRER here on Friday.

The National Statistical Coordination Board (NSCB) said the country's population growth rate has slowed down to 1.95 percent last year.

Divinagracia, also a convenor of Reproductive Health Action Network (RHAN), an activist group promoting reproductive health and population management, said they need evidence to prove the NSCB report.

"Was there a research to come out with this projection?" she asked.

Citing figures of the Commission on Population, she said the contraceptive prevalence rate (CPR) in the country is still very low and the unmet need for limiting and spacing birth is still very high.

The national demographic and health survey in 2003 showed that CPR is 49 percent among married women in the Philippines.

Divinagracia said more work was needed to increase the CPR.

The survey also showed Filipino women still bear more children than they desired.

On the average, there is one child who is "unwanted" or unplanned for every household.

Filipino women would have, on average, 2.5 births, or a birth less than the number they currently have (3.5 births). Women from other Southeast Asian countries have, on average, 2.5 births.

Divinagracia said RHAN wants to dialogue with President Macapagal-Arroyo to discuss her administration's population program. *Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

ROUNDUP

Stranded mountaineers now safe

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A group of 40 people stranded in a mountain near Mt. Pinatubo in Porac, Pampanga, have descended the mountain safely yesterday noon. Pampanga tourism officer Bessie Makabali said heavy rains that rendered the rugged road slippery on Friday stopped the group from leaving the base camp in Mt. Dorst in Barangay Inararo, east of Pinatubo. Makabali said nine members of the Pampanga Disaster Coordinating Council stayed with the group that joined the 2nd Mt. Pinatubo Trek. The group was fetched by four-wheel drive jeeps sent by Gov. Mark Lapid and reached the Porac town proper at 12:10 p.m. amid heavy rains and strong wind brought about by tropical storm "Caloy."
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

2 hurt in oil tanker blast in Bataan

BALANGA CITY—Two workers were hurt on Thursday in a fire that struck an oil tanker while docked at an oil refinery in Limay, Bataan, Coast Guard officials said. Jaime Rebuso, 43, and Pedrito Tanayday, 46, were treated for second degree burns at the Isaac and Catalina Medical Center here and doctors said they were in stable condition. Rebuso and Tanayday, both pipe fitters, were doing welding work on the tanker MT Daniella Trinidad docked near the Petron refinery port in Limay when an explosion occurred at about 8 a.m. The tanker was waiting for its turn to be loaded with diesel fuel from the refinery. Firemen responded to the fire alarm and contained the blaze after an hour.
Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Cagayan mayor's aide killed

TUGUEGARAO CITY—Three people, one of them a security aide of Mayor Randolph Ting, were killed when they were attacked by armed men in Barangay Namabbalan Norte here on Tuesday. Cagayan police director Senior Supt. James Andres Melad said Pedro Guitering Jr., 46, a retired policeman and a security escort of Ting, and two residents identified as Candido Macarubbo, 71, and Tomas Baccay, were shot and killed as they were leaving a chapel in the village. Melad said the four suspects, who were aboard a Nissan Sentra car, were armed with an M-16 Armalite rifle and a .45 cal. gun. Police recovered the suspects' car at the boundary of this city and Peñablanca town. Ting condemned the attack, saying it could be aimed at intimidating him.
Estanislao Caldez and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Zero-crime Marinduque town

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

SANTA CRUZ, Marinduque—The municipality of Santa Cruz, the biggest and most populated town in the province, continues to hold the distinction of being the most peaceful town in the province, if not in the whole country, according to the town police. No crimes were reported during April, according to Insp. Ruel Moreno, Santa Cruz police officer in charge. He said only seven incidents of crime were recorded and investigated by the police for January to April. Santa Cruz registered 27 crimes in 2005.
Gerald Gene R. Querubin, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Sorsogon village chief slain

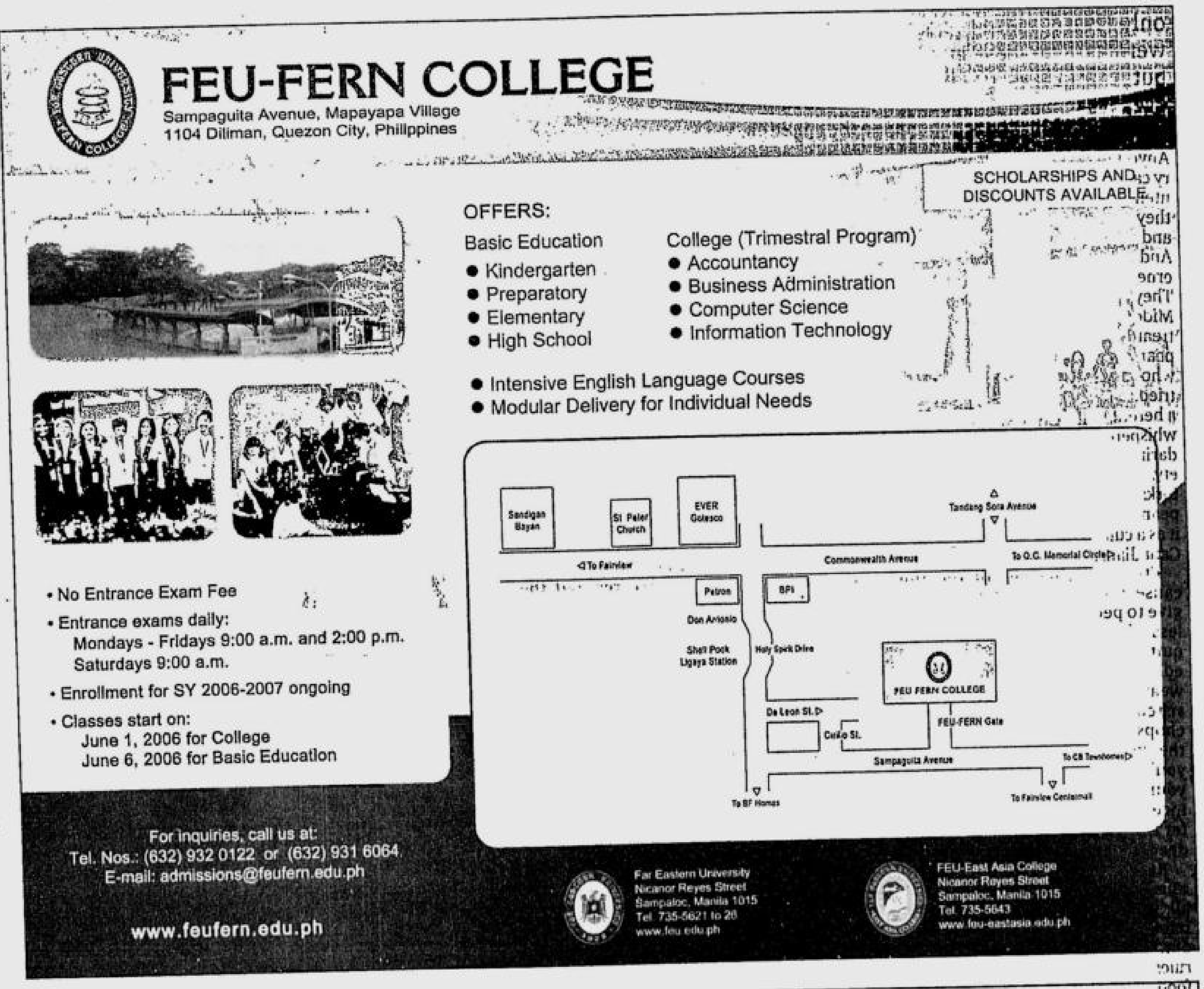
IROSIN, Sorsogon—A lone assailant on Tuesday shot dead this town's barangay captain as he was attending a beer plaza celebration in his barangay. Police said Neil Futalan of Barangay Gabao, who was also a former president of the Liga ng mga Barangay, suffered five bullet wounds from a .45-cal. pistol and died on arrival at the hospital. Irosin chief of police Senior Insp. Dionisio Laceda said the victim was entertaining visitors at about 10:30 p.m. at the barangay auditorium when the suspect approached and shot him without warning. The suspect fled onboard a motorcycle driven by another companion, he said.
Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Police linked to Internet

LEGAZPI CITY—Gov. Fernando Gonzalez has turned over P800,000 worth of computer equipment to the Albay provincial police here to beef up the computer-based communication technology system for the 15 town police stations across the province. He expressed optimism that the donated computer units with Internet connection would enable law enforcers to improve their information capabilities and effectively perform their functions to secure peace and maintain order in Albay.
Edgar Alejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

F. Labro; 95

FELISA Cordero Vda. de Labro of Tanauan, Leyte died on May 10, 2006 at the age of 95. She is survived by children Leonarda, Leticia and Victorio, Sofio and Bernardina, Sigfredo and Nolla, Lorenza and Romulus, Segundino and Corazon, Lucila, Ledila and Ireneo. Her remains lie at their family residence at 30 Alpha Road, Alpha Village, Diliman, Quezon City. Interment will be at Himlayang Pilipino, Quezon City tomorrow, after the 7:30 a.m. Mass at the St. Peter's Basilica in Commonwealth Avenue, Quezon City



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Addicts, not Sayyaf, seen in girl's kidnap

ZAMBOANGA CITY—DRUG ADDICTS, NOT Abu Sayyaf bandits, were behind the abduction of a 9-year-old daughter of a town councilor in Lamitan, Basilan on Wednesday.

Supt. Clifford Gairanod, Basilan police chief, said the abductors were "probably high on drugs when they snatched the girl."

On Wednesday, 9-year-old Donna May Ramos, daughter of Lamitan town Councilor Donnel Ramos, was abducted by two motorcycle-riding men.

Gairanod said the suspects were drug addicts, not Abu Sayyaf members as earlier reported.

Earlier, Brig. Gen. Raymundo Ferrer, chief of the 103rd Army Brigade, identified the abductors as Jaid Awalal and Jaujana Isnilo, suspected members of the Abu Sayyaf Group.

Awalal was reported to be among those who escaped in a jailbreak in Basilan in April 2004.

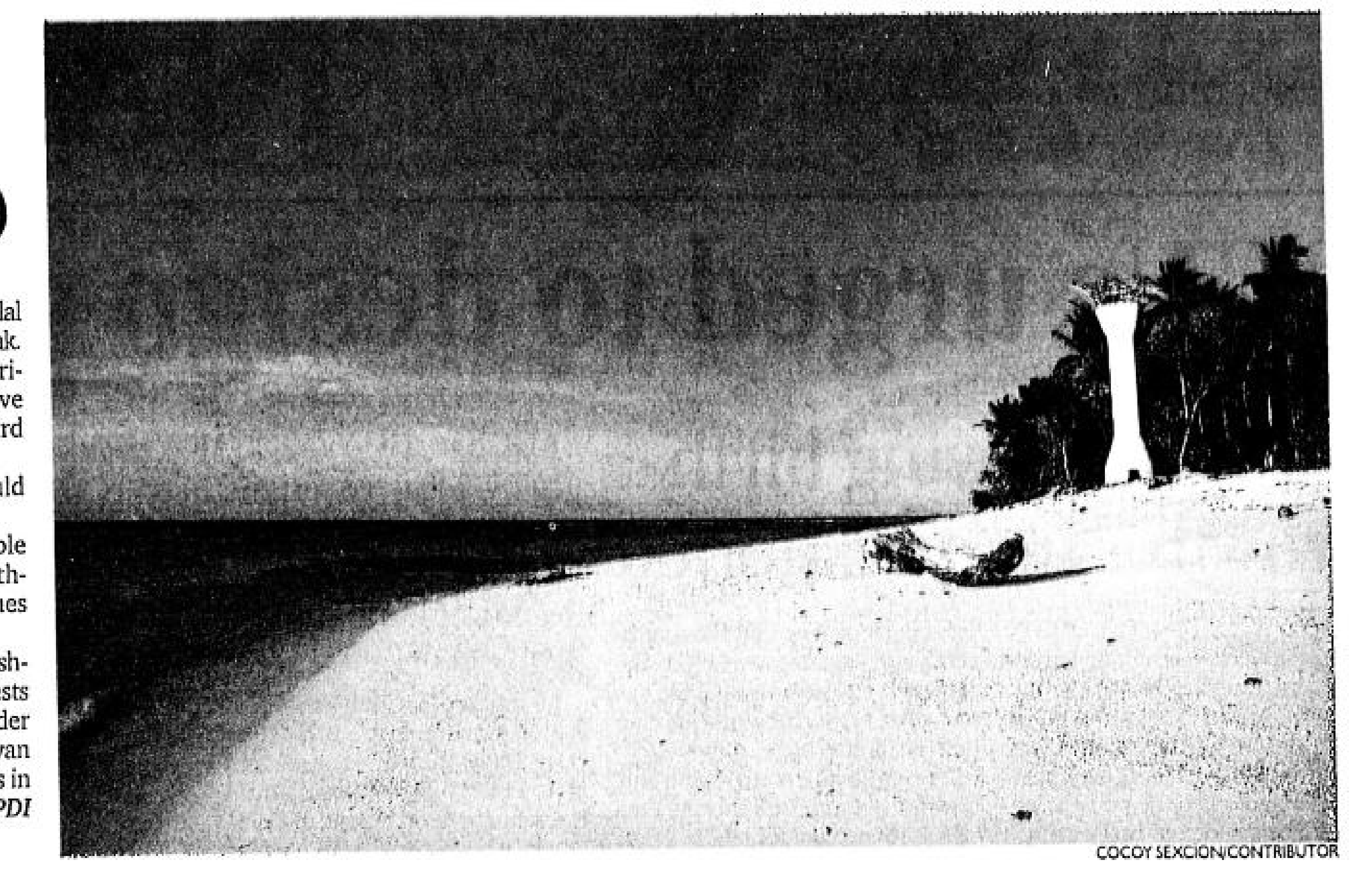
But state prosecutor Peter Medalle said Awalal was killed by government forces after the jailbreak.

Meanwhile, Lamitan Mayor Roderik Furigay said the victim was supposed to have been released on Thursday night but "a third party meddled in the negotiation."

The mayor was still hopeful the girl would be released within the week.

The Abu Sayyaf has been held responsible for a string of kidnappings, murders and other terror attacks in Mindanao and continues to elude government forces.

Some of its leaders have been killed in clashes with government soldiers and during arrests or detention, but its core, led by its leader Khaddafy Janjalani, named after the Libyan leader who was suspected of aiding terrorists in the past, remains intact. *Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau*


COCOY SEXCION/CONTRIBUTOR

LAND BEFORE TIME
A 16-hectare island in the village of Patuco in Sarangani town, Davao del Sur province is still untouched by development and residents prefer it that way. ***(See related story on Page A22)***

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Aetas demand consultation on projects

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE AETA TRIBE in the Botolan, Zambales side of Mt. Pinatubo warned of war if tourism projects and other developments in the vicinity of the volcano were not consulted with them.

"Developers are going to have a taste of our fury if they will insist on their plans without consulting us," Carlito Dumulot, chair of the Lubos na Alyansa ng mga Katutubong Ayta ng Sambales (Lakas), told the INQUIRER from Barangay Mambog in the uplands of Botolan on Tuesday.

Dumulot was reacting to the road carved by the Korean-owned PDC Development Corp. (PDCDC) and the Capas government toward the crater via Sta. Juliana route in Capas, Tarlac.

Opened to tourists on April 29, the 7-km road skips the regular route along the lahar-choked O' Donnell River and shortens the trek to the 3-km wide crater-lake to an hour.

The road, he said, gives greater access to mainly South Korean visitors.

The PDCDC also maintains a stable for horses at Sitio Magkupya and a fleet of boats at the crater.

No Aeta tribes, not even those from Sta. Juliana, gave the project a free and prior informed consent certificate, according to Dumulot.

Salong Sunggod, Central Luzon director of the National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, and Chito Balintay, officer of the NCIP in Zambales, confirmed this in separate interviews.

Dumulot said the Aeta tribes of Botolan are asserting their rights to determine the projects and administer the activities in and around the crater because it belonged to the territory of the town.

He said other Aeta tribes and clans in Pampanga, Tarlac and Zambales recognized even before the 1991 eruptions that the summit straddled the Botolan side.

The tribe, Dumulot said, also wanted to protect the volcano from desecration amid the rising numbers of tourists. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Mediation program reduces case backlog

BAGUIO CITY—THE SUPREME COURT'S mediation program is proving to be an effective mode of settling court disputes and unclogging court dockets.

The success is largely due to the system's out of court and non-legal confrontational process of settlement, said the Philippine Judicial Academy (PJA), the body tasked with implementing the high court's alternative dispute resolution programs.

"There are 14,000 cases settled by mediation in pilot areas since 2001 and chances are, once the system is fully used by all courts, it could cut the country's case loads significantly," said lawyer Michael Andrew Ong, program administrator of the Justice Reform Institute Support (Juris) project.

The country's 2,258 courts, from the SC to the municipal courts, have 806,748 pending criminal and civil cases as of December 2005.

PJA had contracted Juris to train lawyers, professionals, barangay leaders and tribal elders as mediators.

Ong said there are now more than 400 court annex mediators who serve 36 mediation centers.

Fifty-three new mediators finished their training on April 27 at the Saint Louis University here.

Ong said in Bacolod City and the City of San Fernando in Pampanga, mediation had a 90 percent acceptance rate among litigants and an 80 percent success rate.

To illustrate, Ong said a Bacolod City court's case load of 300 was down to 100 cases after a year because of court annex mediation. *Delmar Cariño, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Mom dreams of seeing son gone for 30 yrs

AMPARO Magpantay sifts through pictures of her son whom she hasn't seen for 30 years. MADONNA VIROLA/PDI SOUTHERN LUZON BUREAU

By Madonna T. Virola
Batangas City

AS THE CASKET OF HER HUSband Felix, 78, was being pushed into its tomb, 71-year-old Amparo Rayos Magpantay cried out a different name—Danny—that of her eldest son who has not been heard of since he jumped ship as a seaman in Bolivia 30 years ago.

"You haven't even showed up nor communicated with us. Your father is now gone!" said Amparo Filipino during the March 22 funeral at the public cemetery in Batangas City.

The Magpantay family has been left in the dark as to why their kind, thoughtful and intelligent Danny suddenly disappeared.

Missed

Amparo said Danny grew up with his grandmothers in Barangay Ibaba of the then municipality of Calapan in Oriental Mindoro.

"We were together for only a short time. He went home every Saturday after school classes," she recalled, trying hard to hold back her tears.

They were originally from Barangay Pajo in Isla Verde and Danny would take a boat home from classes on weekends.

Born on Oct. 25, 1956, Danny took his primary education at Ibaba public school and completed his secondary education at the Polytechnic College of Calapan (formerly Calapan Trade School).

Amparo said Danny was the type of person who would stay home, babysit his sisters Sonia and Astie and help in the house chores.

Like his brothers, Danny stayed away from any vices and *barkadas*.

"If he's gone, he would make us feel it," said Amparo, adding that "It's a very difficult situation than when a loved one is officially declared dead."

Danny's dream

Danny wanted to be a civil engineer. He was exposed to his father's work as a foreman, carpenter, an expert and a respected one, and a fisher in Calapan.

"He told me not to worry because he would help in our poverty," said Amparo. (As a seaman, Danny has extended support for three years until he disappeared.)

Danny's uncle-seaman, Lorenzo Magpantay, also dead, brought him to Brazil. But Danny could not return home so the consul in Brazil, whom Lorenzo and Danny asked for help, advised him instead to marry a Brazilian woman.

Five years ago, Lorenzo passed by Brazil and got news that Danny broke up with his first wife and got a second one. He also said that Danny already had a bar.

But Amparo said they were puzzled by a story saying there is a kind of liquid in Brazil which, when taken, would erase one's memory.

Their cousin Leo de Leon, who asked for INQUIRER's help, said that Jay Marasigan, the brother of a journalist in Calapan City, told him he saw Danny in his bar in Santos, Sao Paolo in Brazil with a group of seamen three years ago.

Marasigan even correctly described Danny to be 5'10", brown complexioned and slender, he added.

Last letter

Amparo said Danny has written them about five times. One letter asked his parents to sign documents required for his marriage.

The last one was in 1978, when he informed his parents that he was changing address. They have not kept his letters.

Their letters would return when they wrote to the same address.

The Magpantay family is now appealing to the national government and fellow Filipinos, who have a way to Brazil, for help.

"Even if they would just call up," Amparo said.

She now lives with daughter Sonia Magpantay at Pallocan West and may be contacted at 0927-5579799 or thru Robert Magpantay (based in Manila) at 0917-3235204.

Peace returning to Sierra Madre as Army men, tribe enter into deal

LUCENA CITY—PEACE IS BEGINNING TO REturn to the Agta tribe in Sierra Madre in northern Quezon after the military, local government officials and national government agencies assured the mountain settlers that they would no longer be disturbed by military operations.

"The military made representation with the Agta natives and convinced them to return to their mountain communities. They assured the natives that their peaceful existence in their ancestral settlement would never be disturbed again," Fr. Pete Montallana said in a phone interview.

Montallana is the coordinator of the Indigenous Peoples' Apostolate in the Prelature of Infanta and the Tribal Center for Development director based in Infanta town.

The center is one of the evacuation sites of indigenous peoples fleeing from massive military operations in their area.

Nap Buendicho, president of Agta (Adhikain ng mga Grupong Taong Katutubo na Nagtatanggol sa Lupaing Ninuno), also sent a text message to the INQUIRER on Tuesday evening.

He said the military had sought him in the evacuation sites to tell him that the tribe could now return to the mountain.

Army Maj. Jose Broso, spokesperson of the military's Southern Luzon Command based in Camp Nakar here, confirmed the military gesture.

"The military officials in Reina (Real-Infanta-General Nakar) area—along with local government officials, DSWD and Red Cross—have asked the natives to return to their mountain settlements," Broso said.

The gesture was made after a multisectoral meeting held in General Nakar town on Tuesday, according to Broso.

He, however, refuted the total number of evacuees as reported by the INQUIRER.

He said the Agta evacuees only numbered to more than 30 families and not hundreds of families as earlier reported based on information provided by the village chieftain.

Montallana disagreed, saying what the military had seen was only the group of evacuees temporarily settled in Barangay Katablingan in General Nakar.

"Probably, the military was not aware of the other evacuees... and the other Agta natives that have opted to resettle in the island of Polilio," Montallana said. *Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Pampanga city 1st to put up multisector governance body

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—THE city government here has established its multisectoral governance council, becoming the first city to legislate and institutionalize such a body to make the public governance system (PGS) work for local development.

Former Finance Secretary Jesus Estanislao, chair and president of the Institute for Solidarity in Asia (ISA), said the council got on board almost 40 leaders from various sectors, including San Fernando Archbishop Paciano Aniceto.

They belong to the sectors of farmers, workers, youth, educators, cultural workers, religious, businessmen and professionals.

In creating the council through Executive Order No. 004, Mayor Oscar Rodriguez said he aimed to "share the responsibilities of good governance with the citizens."

The move opened the local government to the scrutiny of and participation by the private sector, he said.

The council was tasked with monitoring and evaluating the progress of eight development goals identified in a series of consultations and affirmed in a summit in February this year.

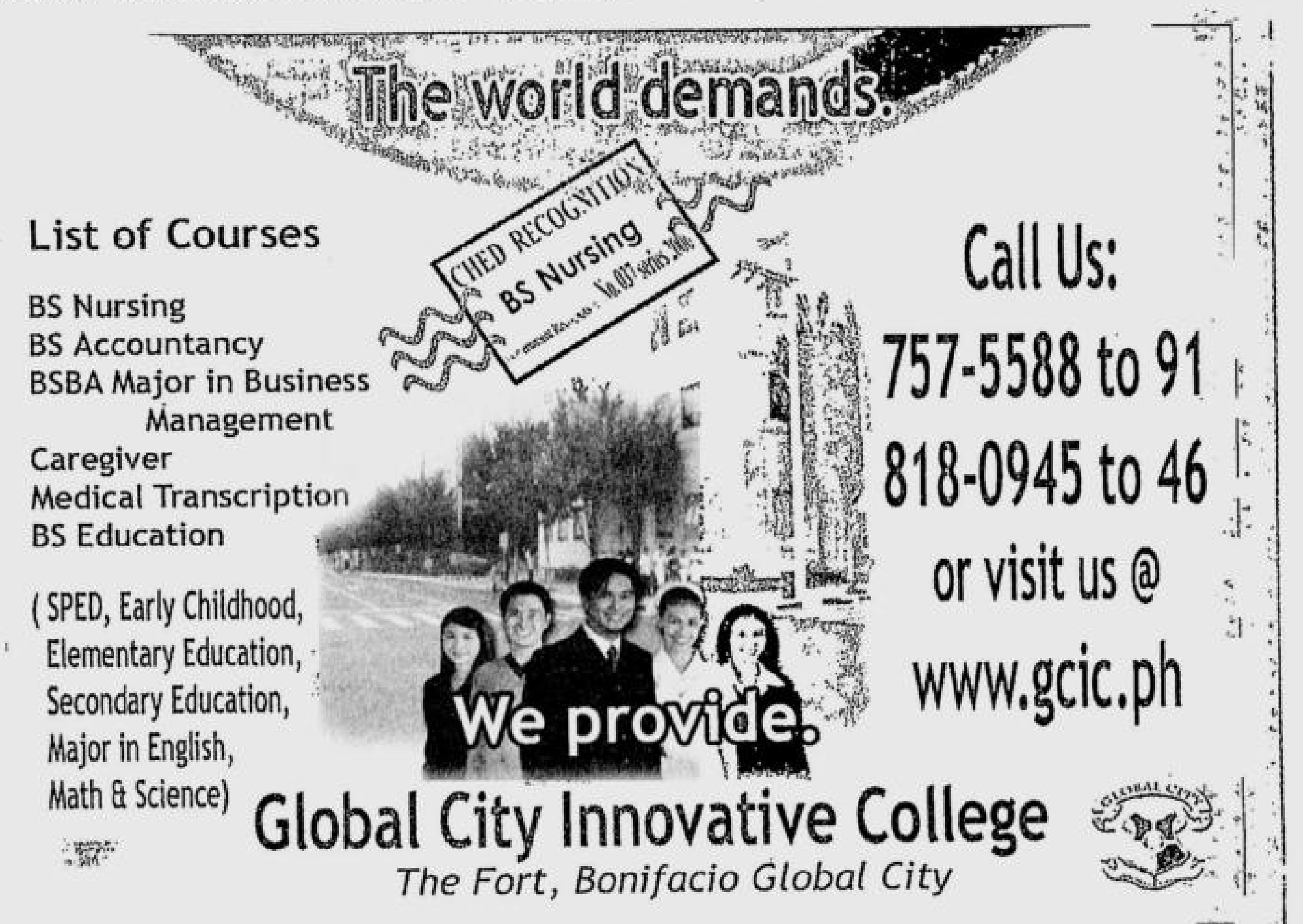
The council uses the PGS as a way of tracking down specific outcomes for those goals to make this Pampanga capital the "gateway to North Philippines, regional center of Central Luzon and champion of good urban governance by 2015 and habitat of human excellence by 2030."

Estanislao said the PGS was adopted from the balance scorecard (BSC), a management system used in business and developed at the Harvard Business School.

ISA has advocated the application of the BSC in public governance by Philippine cities. At least 14 city mayors, including Rodriguez, are ISA fellows.

The order, according to Rodriguez, ensures the continuity of the council's work despite changes in local political leadership.

Estanislao said amid the climate of hopelessness and disenchantment due to national problems, it was not enough for the citizens to talk of issues and complain about the government.
Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk



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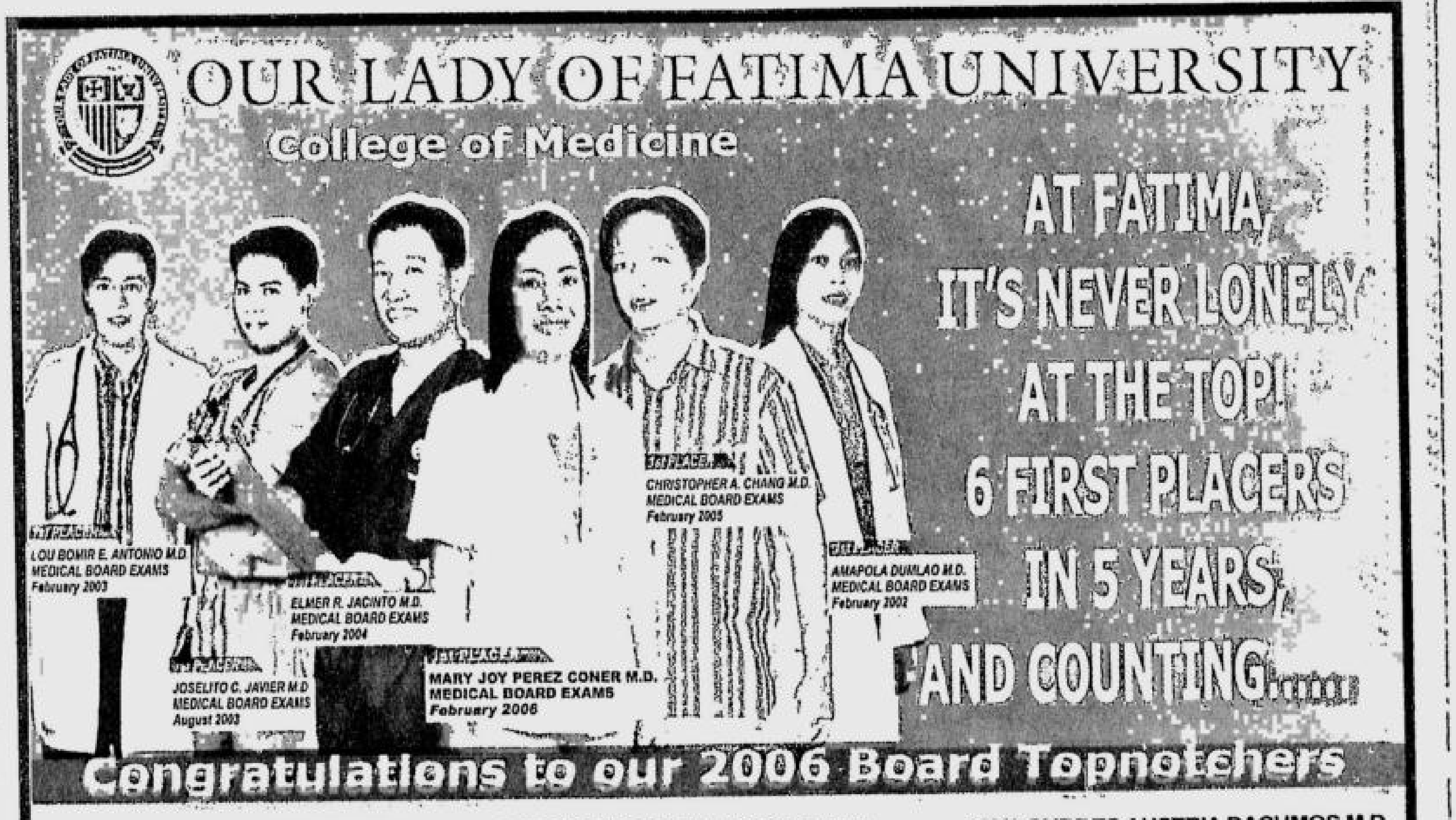

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(PDI – May 7 & 14, 2006)

Gov alerts villages for more landslides

MAASIN CITY—SOUTHERN LEYTE GOV. Rosette Lerias yesterday alerted the province's search and rescue teams to be ready to spring into action following the landslides on Thursday in Barangay Olisihan in Bontoc town and in Barangay Concepcion, Sogod caused by heavy rains spawned by tropical storm "Caloy."

The governor said there were no reports yet of any person hurt or houses that were damaged by the landslides in the adjoining towns of Bontoc and Sogod.

The governor also alerted residents along the Subangdaku River in Sogod to be ready to evacuate to higher grounds as the river's water has started to rise to dangerous levels. Heavy rains have also damaged the dike along the Subangdaku River in Sogod, the governor said.

The governor last night left for Bontoc and Sogod, which are about 52 km from Maasin City, with some members of a search and rescue team, to find out the extent of the damage caused by the landslides.

Lerias formed the search and rescue teams following the massive landslide on Feb. 17 that buried the village of Guinsaugon in St. Bernard town, located about 20 km from Sogod. Over a thousand residents died in the Guinsaugon tragedy.

Donations kept pouring in for survivors of the tragedy and the families of those who died.

Recently, a Malaysian delegation brought with them packages of food, milk and cooking utensils that are to be given to Guinsaugon residents.

According to Lerias, the village that was erased from the map by the landslide is turning out to be a top tourist destination in Southern Leyte, with visitors coming in out of curiosity and to offer condolences and help to survivors. *Jani Arnaiz, PDI Visayas Bureau*

BOY CABRIDO

ROADSIDE SNACK
A boy selling watermelons tries to entice a pack of cyclists who were on their way to San Fernando, La Union from Cabanatuan in the Tour Pilipinas' "Padyak Pinoy" race.

Comelec says signature checking done

Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—EXCEPT FOR SIGNATURES from three areas in Cebu province, the Commission on Elections said it has finished verifying signatures meant to endorse constitutional amendments.

The Comelec said the number of signatures it verified was more than the required percentage per legislative district in the conduct of the people's initiative for constitutional amendments.

Edwin Cadungog, provincial election supervisor, said he already submitted his report to the Comelec central office in Manila saying that Cebu has already completed verifying all the signatures gathered in connection with the people's initiative.

Cadungog said there were 314,129 signatures that were verified out of the 1.9 million registered voters in all 51 towns and cities in the province.

Except for Danao City, Talisay City and the town of Daanbantayan that failed to submit data, the commission endorsed the report to Manila, attaching the petitions for certiorari and prohibition filed by at least three lawyers' groups here.

"We have to terminate the verification proceedings because we could not wait for the (report of) three other (towns). What we are after here is the reasonable time in which we could file our report and I think this is the reasonable time," Cadungog said.

In his report, the provincial election supervisor said out of the 314,129 signatures from 51 areas in Cebu province, 159,727 appeared to be valid while there were questions on 66,069 others.

Cadungog said it would be up to Manila to certify if each legislative district met the requirement mandated by the Constitution.

"I believe that we met the requirement even more than what is really required," he said.

In the Comelec report, the percentages of pro-amendment signatures in each legislative district were: 1st district—8.1 percent; 2nd district—8.62 percent; 3rd district—14.05 percent; 4th district—7.89 percent; 5th district—9.68 percent; 6th district—7.27 percent; Cebu City north—4.77 percent; and Cebu City south—4.68 district.

2 terror suspects sent to Cebu jail

By Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—TWO UNDOCUMENTED INdonesians have been languishing in jail here since Saturday after they were arrested when they tried to sneak out their dead Filipino companion from their room at a hotel in Barangay Guadalupe, this city.

Authorities said they were puzzled why the Indonesians tried to smuggle out their companion from Crown Regency Hotel when the autopsy showed the latter died of heart failure.

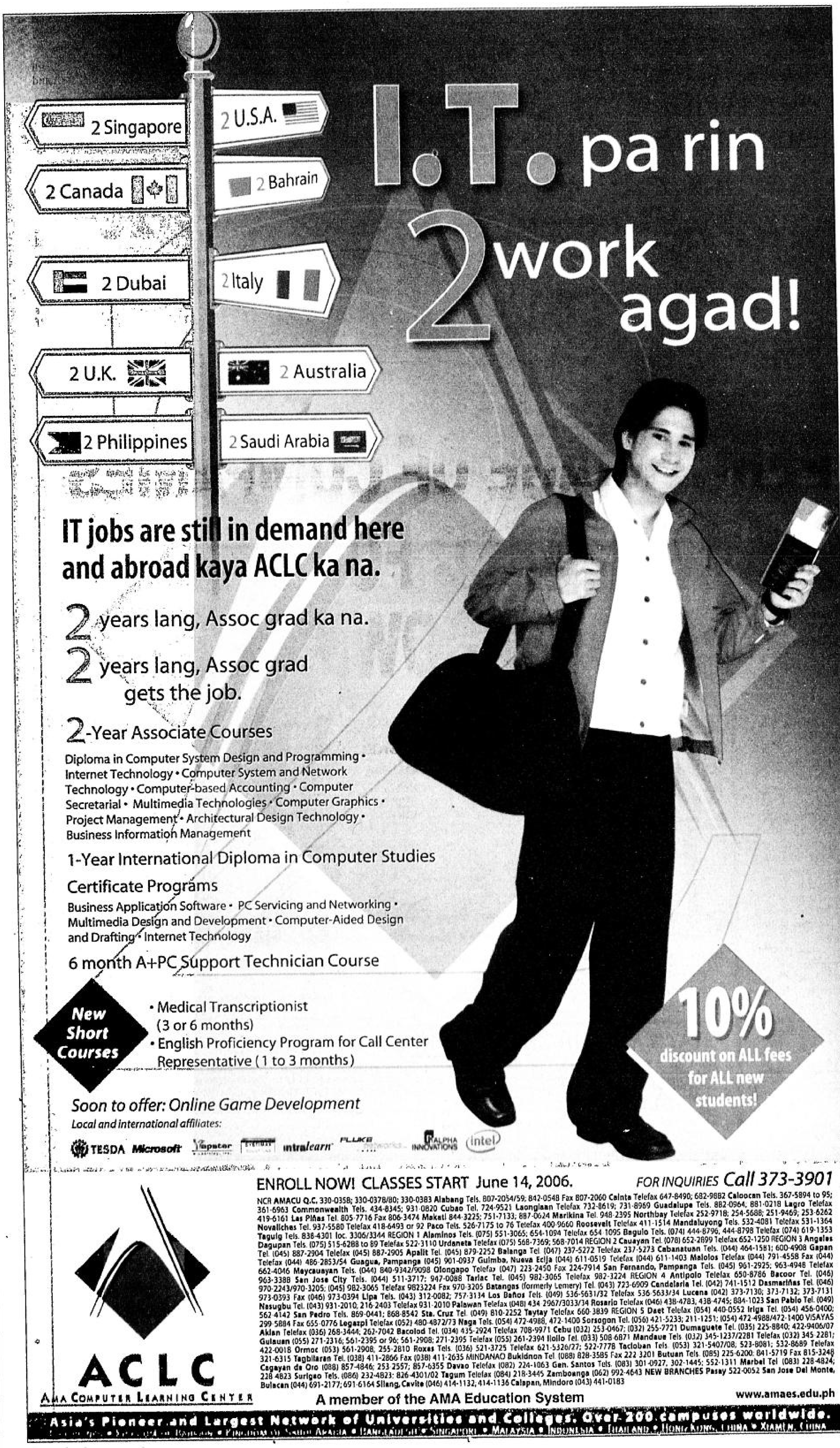
But Cebu City Mayor Tomas Osmeña suspected that the Indonesians—identified as Oscar Dalegi, 43, of Teling Atas Manado Sulut, Indonesia and Bernard Lebene, 49, of Jl Angkasa, Indonesia through their hotel registration record—could be terrorists.

Osmeña said the two failed to show documents on their entry in the country and their attempt to escape with the corpse of their companion was suspicious.

The dead Filipino was identified as Francisco Vidal, 55, a native of Tagum City.

But authorities were still investigating if he was truly a Filipino or if the name he registered at the hotel was real because no one has so far claimed his body at the Cebu Memorial Funeral Homes on C. Padilla Street, Cebu City.

A certain Anastacio Vidal, who claimed to be Francisco's cousin, called up the funeral home supposedly to claim the body but he did not show up.



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INQUIRER Mindanao

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Sarangani: Significant past, bright future

By Russtum Pelima
Contributor

IN SEARCH OF THE mystery that beholds a bay, a province, and a municipality bearing the name Sarangani, we unveiled the mystic beauty of its place and people. We found more than its origin.

A five-hour boat ride from General Santos City brought us to two land masses of Sarangani town in Davao del Sur—the Balut and Sarangani Islands. Balut has a land area of 6,604 hectares, while Sarangani has 4,014 ha.

Its ancestry reveals that Balut, a Maguindanaon term for "island," became a municipality of Davao del Sur 26 years ago. It is composed of 12 barangays, mostly populated by Sangil people who landed there in the mid-14th century from Sangir Island, north of Indonesia, when the Dutch began to take dominion over the island.

Balut's Sangil equivalent is *wanowa*.

Burial sites of Sangil sultans led by Panurat—the first settlers of the land—were built by piles of rocks.

"Those *kalachuchi* trees are memorials of Sangil royalty," Takeda Colano revealed in the vernacular when we visited the site of his great grandfather, Judah.

Takeda is heir to the sultanate of Sangil by affinity, according to the Sangil *tarsila* or genealogy, as recorded by Dr. Domingo Non of the Mindanao State University and Shinzo Hayase in 1999.

Balistic Island

Takeda and his two brothers, Abedin and Pacayan, recalled how their great grandfather challenged to a battle Ruy Lopez de Villalobos, the leader of a Spanish colonial expedition to the Philippines (1542-46), in the historic Balistic Island—a Muslim kris against a Spanish pistol.

Marorong, fondly called Balistic Island because of its bullet shape, is 70 meters across Balut. Visitors and tourists interchangeably call the islet Fort Villalobos because of the rock structure built by the Sangil and B'laan peoples as fortress against Villalobos' army.

Fr. Jose Luego, a Jesuit historian, and Gregorio Zaide in his "History of the Filipino People" noted the landing of Villalobos in Marorong in search of the Moluccas Island in 1543.

It is remarkable how the old Sangil people and the heirs to the sultanate handed down their past comprising four generations by word of mouth.

Duel of warriors

A Sangil *darangen* or folktale also tells of a duel between two big men, Saramanggi and Marama, to win the hand of a Sangil princess. Saramanggi was treacherously defeated by Marama. His blood flowed over the bay and his corpse formed a rock, which are now called the Sarangani Island and the Sarangani Bay in honor of the noble warrior.

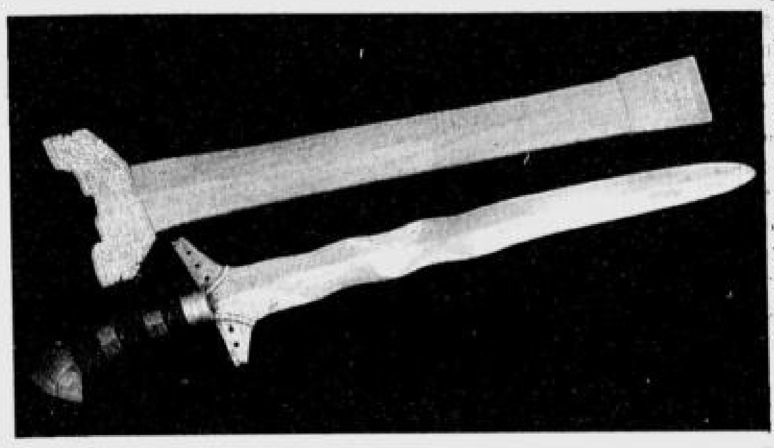
The same bay shares its marine abundance with Sarangani province in Central Mindanao.

In Sangil etymology, Sarangani came from the Sangil's *Sarang-ine* or "This is our territory" or "We stop here."

"Balut and Sarangani are brothers," recounts Prof. Virginia Buhisan, an anthropologist. This was recorded by the Sarangani municipality as the legendary origin of the place which was passed on by the old folk to the next generation.

At 105 years old, Elias Colano is the oldest man in Balut and head of elders of the crowned sultan, Pagal Padasan Colano.

A FORTRESS was built in this islet by Sangils and B'laans against Villalobos' army, but this was not preserved by the local government. Tourists and visitors of the place called it "Fort Villalobos" too.



THIS SWORD (Sangil's Karis or Kris) was handed down for four generations, kept sacred by the Sultan's descendants. It was the one used by Sultan Judah, great grandfather of Takeda, when he challenged Ruy Lopez de Villalobos and his army to a battle at Balistic Island.

PHOTOS BY COCOY SEXCION

Natural beauty

These interesting stories of the Muslim Sangil and the native B'laan who had intermarried in the early part of the 16th century complete the Sarangani town's natural beauty.

A thick mangrove forest surrounds the port of Barangay Mabila, where the town proper is situated.

One would enjoy walking the grounds in a hot spring area in Barangay Lipol, now built with concrete structures for adventurers and tourists. A two-hour trek leads to the source of the spring in Bad-lii in the mountains of Kalisusu and Kagongkong.

It takes an hour-long boat ride to reach Ulaniban, 3 km of white sand encircling the 16-hectare island belonging to Barangay Patuco. An ancient lighthouse fronting the bay was built there by the Americans during the US colonial rule.

Even the *tampat* or burial sites of Sultan Panurat in Batuganding Point attract tourists. They are marked by *kalachuchi* trees and rocks piled by his descendants and B'laan natives who had been Islamized.

Festival

"Bato Manamil is the place where the fifth Sultanate of Maguindanao Mohammad Jafar Sitti Manamir was borne by his mother Putri Ambas," said Sangil Datu Osmeña Salisipan.

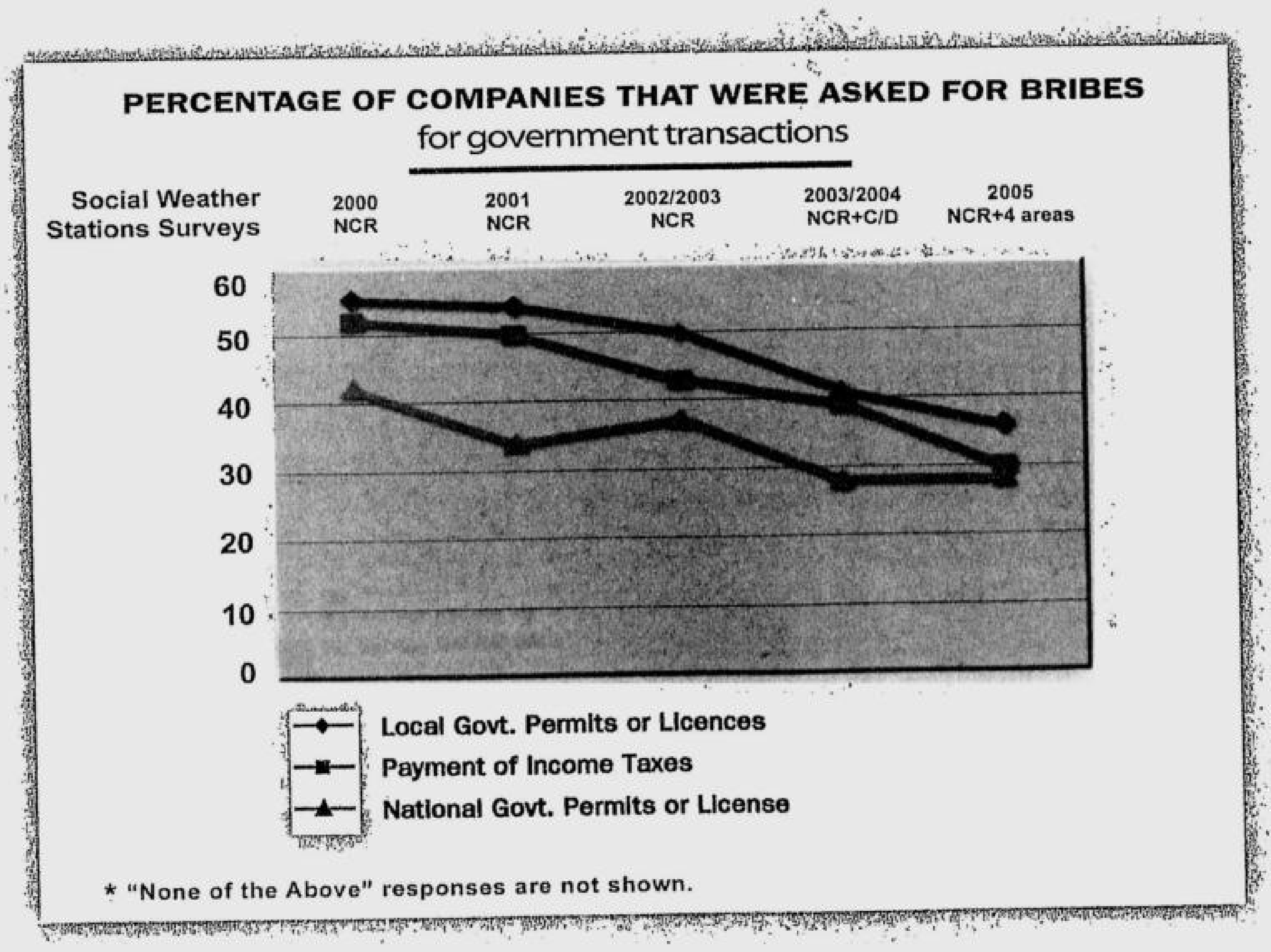
Our expedition recounts the abundance that the Sarangani Bay is endowed with, shared and treasured by the *sarangan*.

In the celebration of the first Sarangani Bay Festival on May 17-20 in Glan, Sarangani province, tracing Sarangani's significant past is a highlight.

Beach volleyball, kayaking, skim boarding, an 11-km swim in the bay and other water sports will be part of the activities.

"It will be the first time that we will celebrate this event," said Nenita Barroso, executive director of the Sarangani Tourism and Investment Promotion Center. "We will revisit the bay's history which became the highway for the first civilization in this part of mainland Mindanao."

THE PERCENTAGE OF COMPANIES THAT WERE ASKED FOR BRIBES IS GOING DOWN.



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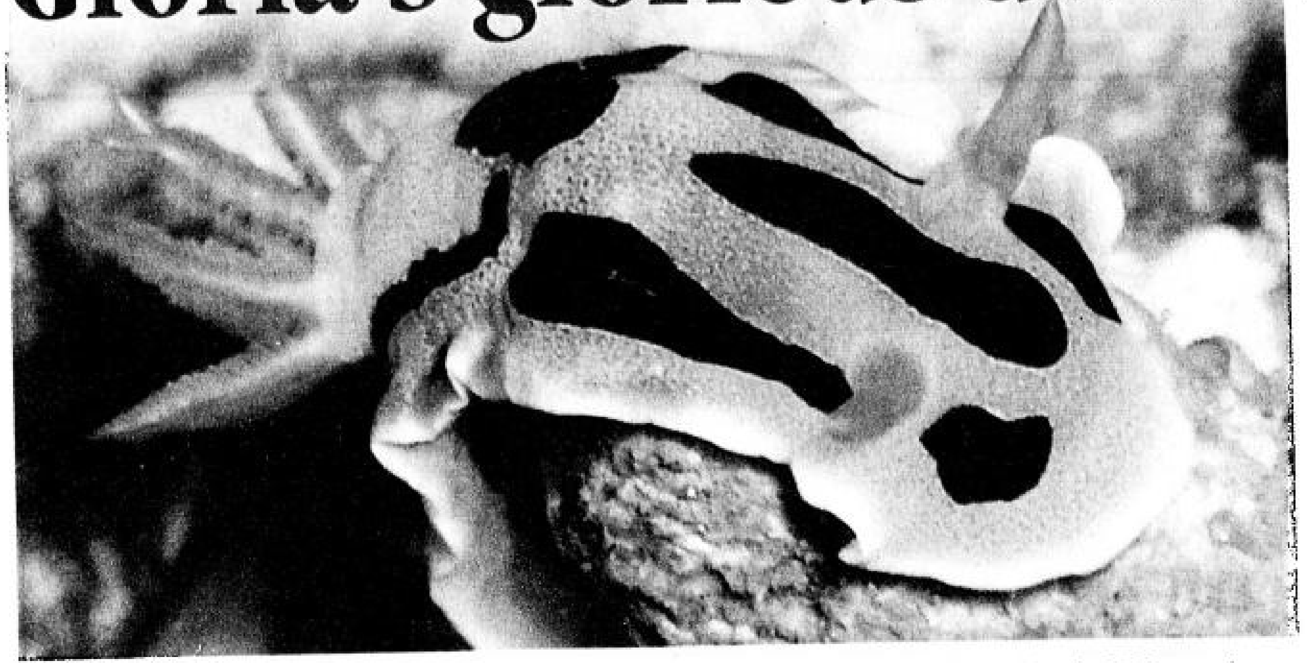
Gloria's glorious dive resort in Davao Sur



THE WATER around Kisulad, which is actually called Basiauan Bay in the maps, is teeming with colorful flora and fauna. Various species of nudibranchs, a frog fish, and a robust ghost pipefish are just some of the creatures that inhabit the wildly colorful Mural Reef near the bay's entrance. PHOTOS BY CARLOS MUNDA

By Carlos R. Munda Jr.
Contributor

NESTLED IN A QUIET COVE in Davao del Sur is the budding dive resort owned by former Education Secretary Ricardo Gloria.

While still in its infancy as dive operations go, the area near the resort is perhaps one of the best undiscovered dive sites in the country. It opens up to the Davao Gulf and is bordered by the low-lying hills of the towns of Malita and Malalag.

It is blessed with calm weather almost year-round, white-sand beaches, and crystal-clear waters.

But more than these geographical attributes, what sets this dive site apart from the rest is the profusion of some of the most sought-after marine animals within its small area. These include the dugongs, sea turtles, schooling tuna and dolphins at or near the cove, plus whale sharks and manta rays sighted during certain times of the year.

Chance encounter

The thing about chance encounters is that they are seldom lukewarm—either they turn out to be monumentally fortuitous or disastrously bad luck for the parties involved. In my case, I count myself lucky that my chance encounter with Gloria turned out to be of the former kind.

As one of the panelists of the Davao Dive Congress, he spoke at length on the need to build a strong community committed to sustainable development, if tourism is to become a viable means of livelihood in the countryside.

He also spoke with pride about the small beachfront resort he had christened "Wow Kiss," short for "World of Wonder, Keep It Simple and Sacred."

"Tourism must go hand in hand with people empowerment so that Filipinos will feel a sense of ownership as far as promoting what is beautiful in their communities. Without this, our tourist spots will be seen as nothing more than products that can and should be used, instead of a legacy to our children and grandchildren that must be preserved," he said.

Invitation to dive

During one of the breaks, I had the opportunity to be introduced to the former Cabinet secretary, and it was then that he extended an invitation to visit his resort. A couple of weeks passed when I received a text message "am inviting you 2 WOW KISS the best of ur time. Tanx. Ric Gloria." I got in touch with some dive buddies—Stella, Czaldy and Poker—and we decided to do some exploratory dives there.

It was raining when we arrived, but the sun soon appeared, turning what had up until then been a gloomy day into a bright and cheerful one. We lost no time in gearing up and even less time getting into the water.

Since this was our first time—or for that matter, it was the first for any diver—to dive in the area, we relied on the boatman to get us to where the corals were.

We decided on a conservative dive profile, agreeing not to go beyond the 100-foot mark. We swam northwest past a low sea wall that was filled with schools of fish and an abundance of healthy corals. While there were some signs of dynamiting, it was clear that these had happened far into the past.

Parrot fish, scad and colorful reef fish trailed us throughout our dive. Visibility was 60-80 feet, there was no current, and it was an easy and relaxing dive.

Our second dive was on a reef right in front of the resort. Although the corals there were not as vibrant as in our first dive site, it was a tremendously rewarding effort from a macrophotography point of view.

Among the rarer subjects we saw was a robust ghost pipefish, several varieties of nudibranches, a tiny white frog fish, and scores of gobies, shrimps and eels, among other marine life.

Heading home

Back on shore, our minds still filled with the wonderful visions of what we saw, the discussion turned to the future of the area as a dive destination and ecotourism showcase.

As we talked, the locals also started to open up. They were animated in their description of where and when the whale sharks would appear. They confirmed the presence of dugongs in nearby Malita town, sea turtles nesting in nearby beaches, and dolphins frolicking not far from where we sat.

Listening to their tales and their growing eagerness to share, it was easy to see that Gloria's impassioned advocacy for stronger community involvement in any kind of development was starting to take hold.

There, just like he did during the dive congress, he spoke of stewardship and inheritance, and of integrity and education as keys to a balanced tourism program.

He asked for our help, and we all gladly gave it—knowing that in the end, we were also helping ourselves.

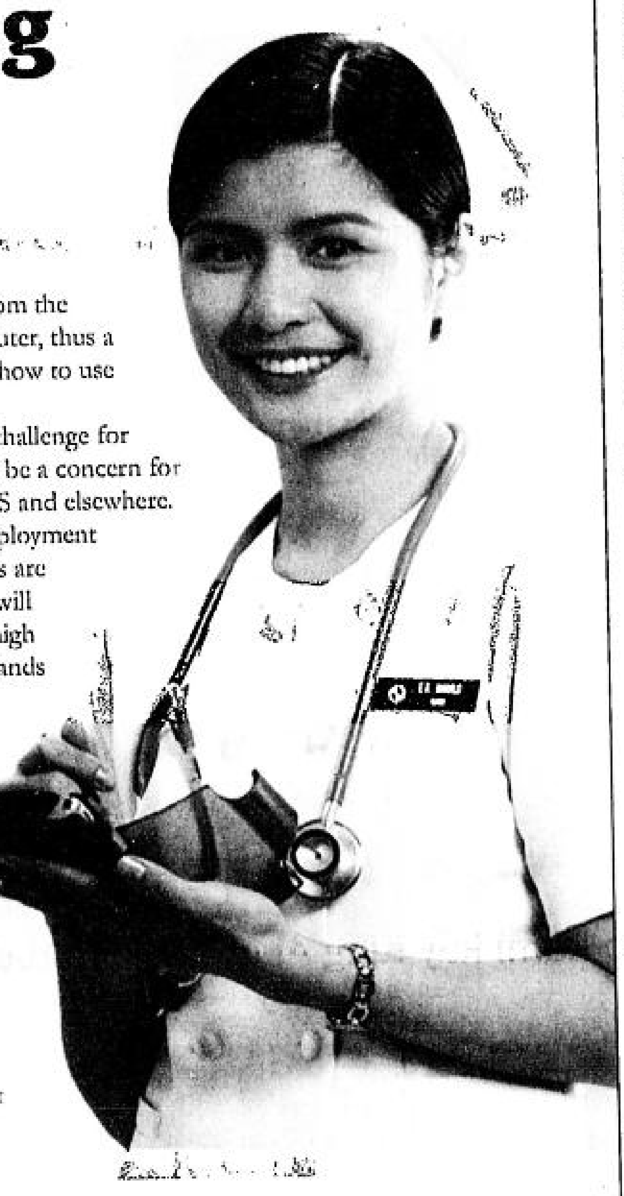
And for someone like me who is generally skeptical of any government official—past or present—there, surrounded by coconut trees festooned with billboards of clichés about long-forgotten virtues, I was genuinely touched by this man's sincerity in bringing order to even just this small portion of a nation now filled with confusion.

"When I started building here, I made it my mission to help strengthen families and communities by promoting UST—unity, solidarity and teamwork. This place is truly God's gift," he said.

TO LEAD IS TO SERVE

THE TREES around the beach sport various reminders such as the one shown here. Other signs include biblical quotations, and wishful thinking like "No Filipino should go to bed hungry and angry."

How I.T. is Revolutionizing Healthcare



The healthcare industry has finally realized the value of investing in technology. Hospitals have learned to embrace the Digital Age for more efficiency and better care for its patients.

In the United States for instance, nurses use wireless mobile laptops to record patients' vital signs, symptoms, and medications. Doctors can sign in to the same central system from the laptops, too, or from any desktop PC to order prescriptions and lab tests and read their patient's progress.

Ace Kismundo, a registered nurse working at the Medical/Surgical Unit of the University of California, Davis Medical Center (UCDMC) shares hospitals in the US now use the Electronic Medical Record (EMR) for documentation and information sharing.

Kismundo said the EMR has made information easily accessible to healthcare providers especially to doctors who are most of the time in remote areas but need to regularly check on the status of their patients.

" Since all documentations pertaining to direct patient care are in the EMR, care providers may see patients' records even in remote locations. Patients' tests, procedures, lab results, etc. are gathered in the EMR," Kismundo said.

" In today's technology we are moving away from the paper-based documentations. All are in the computer, thus a nurse should be equipped with the knowledge on how to use one, " Kismundo added.

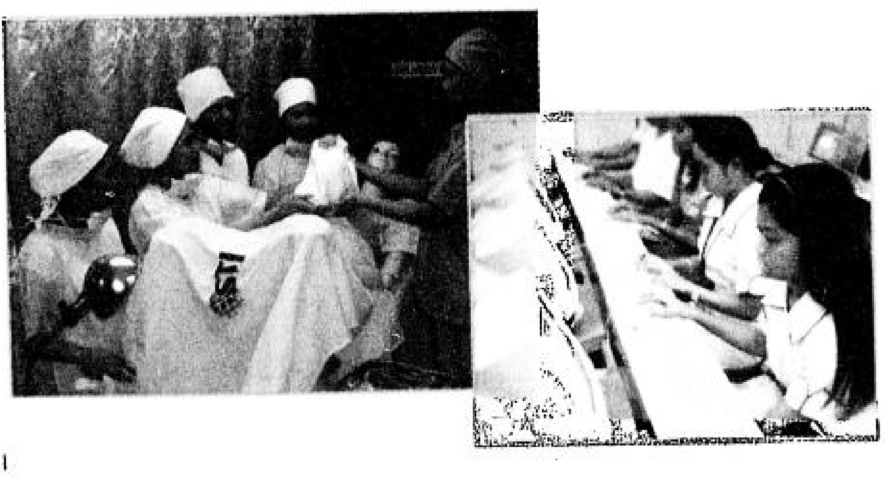
The use of new technology however poses a challenge for hospital workers especially on nurses. This should be a concern for Filipino nurses who are of great demand in the US and elsewhere.

According to the Philippine Overseas and Employment Agency (POEA), Filipino nurses working overseas are now in the vicinity of 90,000 and a million more will be needed in the coming years as demand is still high in countries such as the U.S., Canada, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom.

The huge number of Filipino nurses leaving for work abroad is causing the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) some worries. The Philippines may now be exporting more qualified nurses faster than we are producing them.

Sharing CHED's concern, STI has made a commitment to help the government in improving nursing education in the country. By intensifying IT education in its nursing curriculum, STI said its students are made to be more competitive in the modern environment here and abroad.

KEEPING UPDATED WITH THE LATEST TECHNOLOGY



Dr. Gina S. Brown, Ph.D., a registered nurse and Chief Operating Officer of GROW Healthcare LLC, STI's placement agency partner, said Filipino nurses are very professional in their work but need some fine tuning in the area of IT and even in English proficiency .

Brown said that Filipino healthcare professionals still need to improve their English proficiency, IT, and clinical skills. She added nurses who want to work in the US need to be kept updated of the latest technological tools being used today.

Brown however lauded Filipino nurses for their professionalism and said that in her more than 10 years experience working as a nurse in various states in the US, she has never met any other culture who has exhibited such fine display of excellence in terms of work ethic.

ICT-ENHANCED EDUCATION

Using its strength in computer education, STI has integrated ICT education in its Nursing programs to make nursing professionals even more competitive in the modern environment, particularly in healthcare institutions abroad.

"It's not enough that a nursing graduate knows the theories. To become more effective, it is also important for nurses to be able to know the latest technological tools now being used in hospitals, " STI President and CEO Monico V. Jacob said.

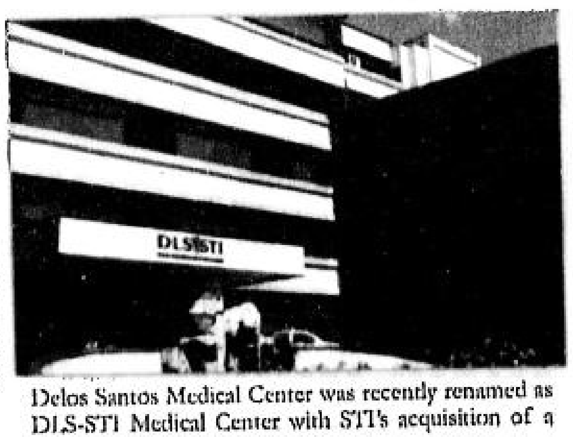
According to Jacob, patients nowadays will no longer see nurses in the U.S. jotting down patient information using metal patient charts. "To make the documentation process faster and more efficient, what they use now are handheld PCs," he said.

To make sure that its nursing students are abreast with the latest technological developments, Jacob said STI has put up state-of-the-art nursing skills laboratories which are designed to simulate the actual hospital setting.

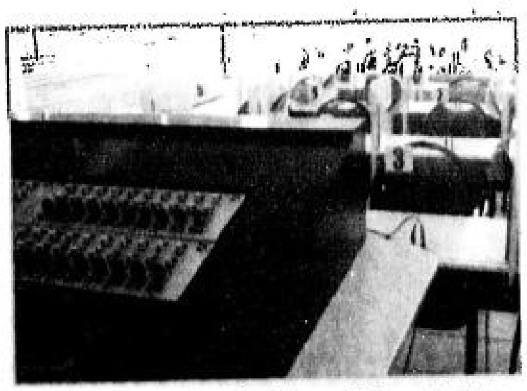
In addition, STI recently acquired a significant stake in DLS-STI Medical Center to further improve healthcare services and education in the country especially in the area of healthcare informatics to better prepare nurses for the Digital Age.

With 21 nursing colleges, STI is considered the largest network of nursing schools today.

STI brings the best ICT-enhanced education in all of its courses.

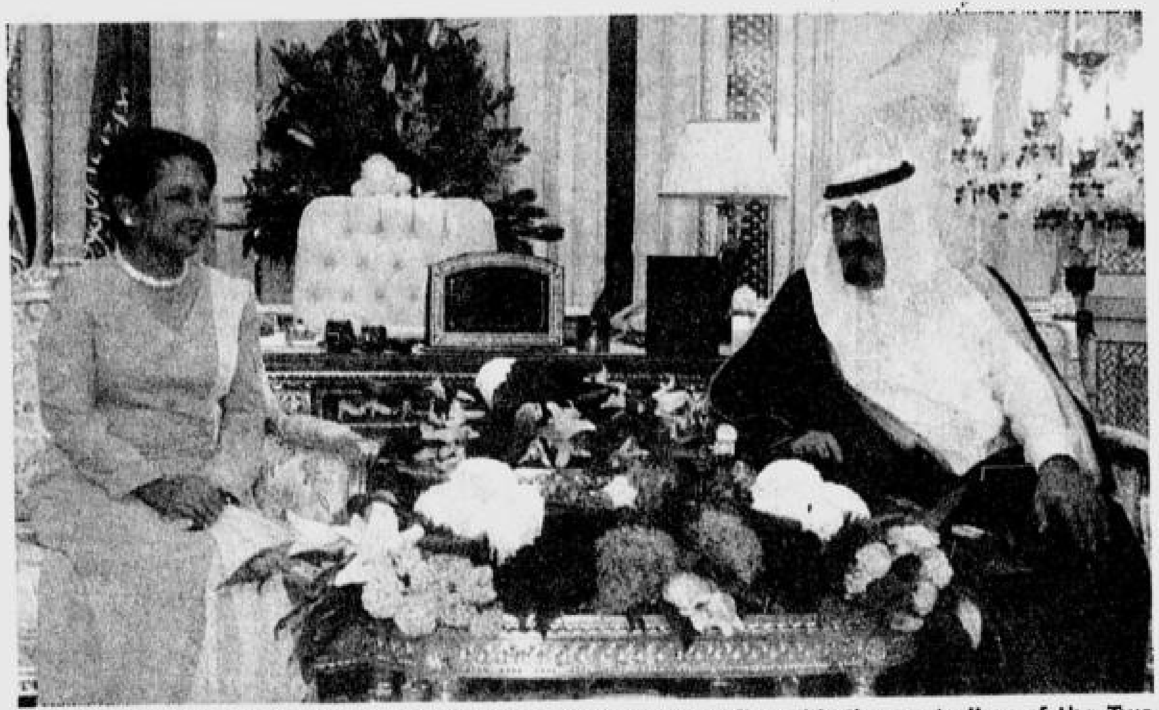


Delos Santos Medical Center was recently renamed as DLS-STI Medical Center with STI's acquisition of a significant stake in the hospital.



Students get better English proficiency training through the speech laboratory.

A Sincere 'Thank You' to His Royal Highness King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud



President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is all smiles as she talks with the custodian of the Two Holy Mosques King Abdullah din Abdul Aziz Al Saud during their one-on-one meeting on May 7 at the Palace of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques in Riyadh.

In her four-day visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia from May 8-11, 2006, H. E. President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo had said that she wanted the Philippines to be Saudi Arabia's 'privileged companion' in pursuing economic growth.

She visited the Kingdom with a pledge to address the three O's important to our national life—Oil, Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), and our country's desire for membership in the Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC).

President Arroyo accomplished a major victory with regard the issue of our one million-strong workers in Saudi Arabia. She won the pardon of His Royal Highness King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud for 500 OFWs jailed in various Saudi prisons for minor offenses. During the President's visit, 213 OFWs—125 in Riyadh and 88 in Jeddah—were freed on orders of the Saudi king.

Of the number, 170 arrived with the President on May 11. Two hundred more OFWs will arrive in a week's time.

The nation joins the President in expressing "sincerest appreciation for the magnanimity, warmth, benevolence and compassion of King Abdullah towards the OFWs who have erred." The pardon, she said, was a "gift" of the King to the Filipino people.

The President once again demonstrated her unyielding concern for the welfare and interest of the overseas Filipino workers.

In fact, upon her arrival, the President awarded the OFWs the PGMA Training for Work Scholarship Certificates which will enable them to learn certain livelihood skills. The training will be conducted by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority.

She also directed the Department of Labor and Employment, the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration, and the Department of Social Welfare and Development to draw up a comprehensive aftercare program for the pardoned and freed OFWs. The aftercare program shall be part of the OWWA's reintegration program and shall eventually serve as a model of government assistance to distressed OFWs.

The Philippines profusely and warmly thanks King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz Al Saud, Crown Prince Sultan bin Abd Al-Aziz, and the Saudi Arabian people for their precious "gift."

PASASALAMAT

"Kami po ay lubos na nagpapasalamat sa ating Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo sa pagtulong niya sa amin upang kami ay mapalaya sa aming pagkakakulong. Marahil kung hindi dahil sa inyong pagtulong ay magtatagal pa kami sa piitan at di pa namin nakikita ang aming mahal sa buhay.

Nagpapasalamat din po kami kay King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz bin Al Saud sa pagpapaunlak niya sa kahilingan ng ating Pangulo na kami ay mapalaya na at makauwi sa ating bayang Pilipinas.

Muli po, sa Pangulong Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo at kay King Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz bin Al Saud, ipinaabot namin ang aming taos-pusong pasasalamat."

The OFWs Aboard Freedom Flight
Saudia Flight 862, May 11, 2006

On coming home

*By Gena Agoncillo**

I went to Saudi Arabia five years ago to work as a domestic helper. Leaving behind my two-year-old daughter was the hardest decision I have ever made in my life. My previous life was that of a sales clerk, receiving minimum wage, with hours spent on my feet, behind a counter where beauty accessories were sold.

When my neighbor told me about a job opening for a domestic helper in Saudi Arabia, I saw it as a sign to exchange a life of limited potential for a more lucrative, though difficult, job overseas.

My employers were good to me. I heard enough horror stories from other domestic helpers to know that I was fortunate to be in their employ. I was not the only maid in the house. There were four of us, with the three maids coming from a different country, and who were close friends. One of them stole jewelry from my lady employer and this affected all of us working in that household. My co-worker implicated me as an accessory to her crime. The accusation was false, but a bracelet planted in my suitcase sealed my fate.

Every day, in the corner of my jail, I would sit, pray, and think of the daughter I left behind. Because of her, I never lost hope. Because of her, coming home was a dream that I held on to.

I did not know about the President Gloria Arroyo's state visit. While in jail, we knew not much about what was going on outside its four walls. Then they came for me. Our embassy told me that I was among those pardoned by the King upon the intercession of the President. The jail guard opened the door of my cell and motioned for me to step out. My heart was pounding as I took tentative steps outside my cell. I was scared that it was all a dream, or worse, a nasty trick. But then they assured me that it was all true. My first thought was of my daughter. I could not stop crying. These tears of joy were meant for her, because I would soon be home to see her. We will start again, mother and daughter, as one family. The welfare officer who helped me board the plane assured me that help would be forthcoming so I could start a new life in my own province.

When I fastened my seatbelt on the plane that was to take me home, I took a long, deep breath, conscious of this rare gift of freedom that was handed out to me by no less than the King of Saudi Arabia. Our flight touched down in Manila at exactly 4:45 pm, signalling the end of my journey as an OFW.

From the bottom of my heart, I thank President Arroyo and King Abdullah for giving me my future back as a free woman, as a mother reunited with the daughter she loves the most.

May King Abdullah live a long life and may his kindness extend to other OFWs who are still in Saudi detention centers. I write this now here at my friend's house where my daughter and I will stay for a while until I regain enough strength to rebuild our life together.

Maraming, maraming salamat po sa ating pamahalaan, embahada, at lalung lalo na sa ating mahal na Pangulo!

"From the bottom of my heart, I thank President Arroyo and King Abdullah for giving me my future back as a free woman, as a mother reunited with the daughter she loves the most."

** Not her real name.*

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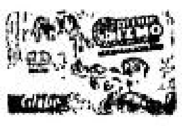

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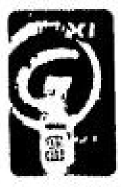

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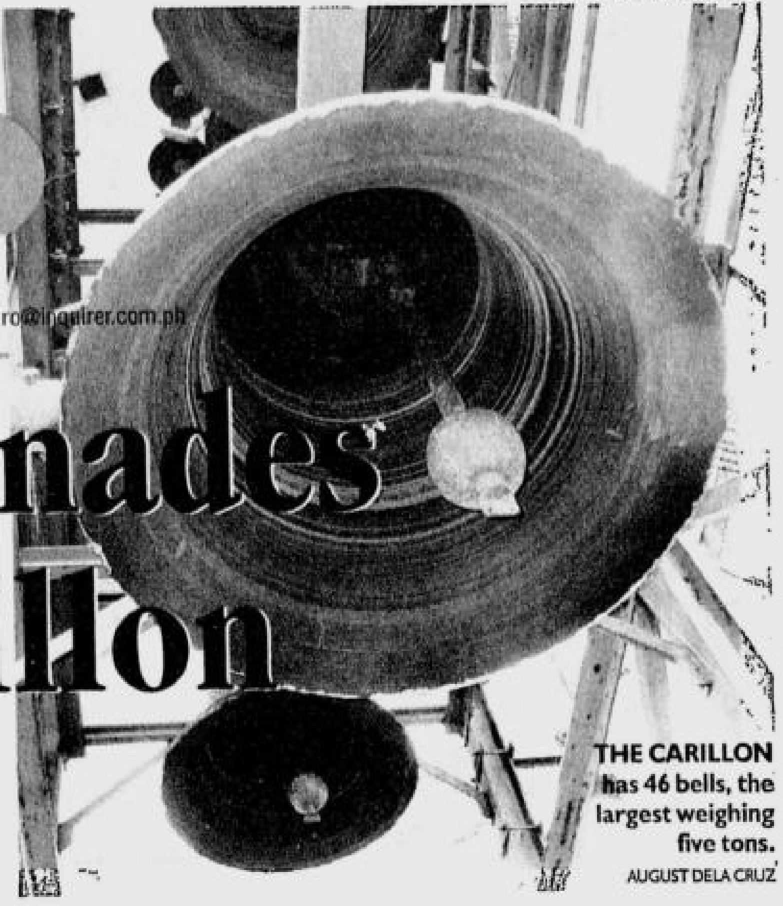
Sunrise and sunset serenades once more from UP Carillon



THE CARILLON has 46 bells, the largest weighing five tons.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

Alumni kick off P20-M fundraising project to save 53-year-old landmark from ruin

By DJ Yap

AFTER A LONG SILENCE, THE "BELLS OF Diliman" will ring once again to bring cheer to the spirit and spread music in the air on the sprawling campus of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

The UP Carillon, the oldest of its kind in Asia and the first and only mechanical bell tower in the Philippines, will be restored in the coming months—in time for the university centennial in 2008.

Time has taken its toll on the 53-year-old bell tower, which used to serenade students and teachers at sunrise and sunset, with songs like the university hymn "UP Naming Mahal" and other familiar and beloved tunes.

For years, the Carillon was famous for producing soothing music that drifted in the air and soared wherever the wind took it.

Forged by the now defunct Van Bergen Company in the Netherlands, it was officially inaugurated on Aug. 1, 1952. Having a carillon on the Diliman campus was a brainchild of National Artist for Architecture Juan Nakpil, UP Music Conservatory director Ramon Tapales and then UP President Bienvenido Gonzales.

Inside the tower are 46 bells, the largest of which weighs five tons. These are played using a clavier or wooden keyboard.

But today, many of the Dutch bells are out of tune, with some in dire need of repair or replacement. The wires and levers of the clavier have also crumbled.

Sign of wear and tear

The 130-foot cream-and-maroon tower topped by an open-air dome is also showing signs of age, with wear and tear gnawing at the column.

Last year, a Dutch expert told university officials that playing the bells, which even then was done rarely, could cause some of these to fall off.

For some time now, the Carillon, whose name actually refers to the bells and not the tower, has been a mute shadow of its former self, a relic that had seen better times.

"But we can't allow the Carillon to fall into ruin," said UP Alumni Association (UPAA) secretary and executive director Solina Iglesias.

"As far as I know, it is only one of the two major landmarks at the university, the other being the UP Oblation," she added.

Ambitious project

The university is now counting on its alumni to chip in to save the beloved landmark which is also a symbol of the ties that bind its graduates together. UP has embarked on an ambitious P20-million project seeking to save the Carillon from further decline.

Dubbed the "UP Carillon Restoration Project," the undertaking is being spearheaded by the UPAA, the same organization that donated the bell tower to the university back in 1952.

The UPAA has so far collected P2.25 million in cash from alumni and P12.4 million in pledges—from individuals and entire classes, to the organizations, fraternities and

SUNRISE/ A26

THE 130-FOOT tower is showing signs of wear and tear.
AUGUST DELA CRUZ

There are lives we touch
to help build someone's dream.

"Maraming salamat po at pinag-aral ako ng Shell. Malaki po ang nagawa sa 'kin. Ngayon, may sarili na akong bahay at lupa at natutustusan ko ang mga pangangailangan ng aking pamilya. Unang pasok ko ay isang forecourt crew. Ngayon, ako po ay isang forecourt supervisor na."

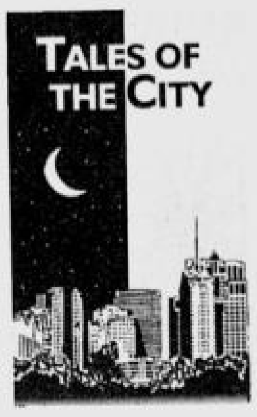
Alex Geronimo
GAS MO, BUKAS KO Scholar

Alex Geronimo. Just one of the many lives we've touched to help make our world a better place to live. Through our Gas Mo, Bukas Ko program, we provide FREE education to our gasoline attendants. Initiated in June 2005, an initial batch of 50 youths were given the opportunity to study basic computer or auto gas mechanic vocational course at the La Salle Greenhills Night School. It's a program that aims at giving dignity to their hard work and fuels the way towards achieving their dreams and ambitions.

Girl uses computer as canvas

For 7-year-old digital painter Nika Manzano, creating colorful masterpieces is as easy as reciting the alphabet

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.



HER PAINTINGS RESEMBLE THE masterpieces of many world-class painters.

But Ninotchka Laura Marie Patrice "Nika" del Moro Manzano, the artist, is just seven years old. And for her, creating over 100 paintings was just as easy as reciting the alphabet.

Painting is just like "playing," Nika said.

And why not? Instead of holding paint brushes, Nika has been manipulating the mouse. Instead of a canvas, she stares at a computer screen.

In less than three to five minutes, what her 54-year-old father Ricky calls a masterpiece is spewed out by a computer printer, displaying bright colors and sophisticated strokes.

Nika is a "digital painting artist." She uses computer programs like Microsoft Paint and Adobe Photoshop to create her works of art.

Digital painting, according to Ricky, is proof that "art has come of age" as the technology has made art easier to embrace and practice.

Nika's fascination with digital painting began on a Thursday afternoon in 2005 as Ricky was working in the kitchen and she was about to view a film on their computer.

Ricky did not buy his youngest daughter a television set. Being a devout Born Again Christian, he wanted to protect her from what he called "secular viewing" and only allowed her to watch videos of movies like Cinderella and Bible Stories.

Art by accident

"I was about to click the icon for the Windows Media Player. But I saw an icon labeled Paint. I clicked it and started painting," Nika said in Filipino, laughing as she recounted the story.

With Microsoft Paint, a computer user can draw images and fill it with color, choosing whether a brush stroke or an air brush would be most appropriate, just by clicking on the mouse.

"I wanted to erase the first artwork that I did. But I realized it looked beautiful, so I did not erase it," she added. Instead, she called out to her father to see what she had "painted" on the computer.

Ricky was alarmed at first. He thought Nika had literally painted on the computer—taking a crayon perhaps, and drawing doodles all over the monitor.

Worry to amazement

He rushed over to his daughter and his worries turned to amazement. That was, he said, Nika's first time to use that computer program.

But her flair for colors had shown at an earlier age.

Ricky said his daughter, wearing a diaper when she was just two years old, would spend hours with crayons and coloring books on her bed. He saw in her his own passion for painting.

"I used to join art competitions. I would use discarded flour sacks as canvas," he recalled.

Prolific artist

Soon, Nika was finishing three to five computer paintings every day. She also started to use Adobe Photoshop, where users can select more art effects, like altering brush strokes already done in Microsoft Paint.

Ricky started sending her work to his friends via e-mail. He interpreted the abstract work, gave them titles and attached verses from the Bible to each artwork.

Nika, meanwhile, continued "playing" with lines and colors, and did not display interest in creating clear structures or in telling any particular story.

No message

Asked what one of her paintings meant, she leaned forward and said: "Nothing!"

She is attracted to colors, to repetitive shapes and movement, but not in what her artwork means.

One of her paintings showed possibly hundreds of imperfect circles, piled one on top of the other, in different colors. Nika said she only knew what they looked like after she had finished painting. They could be rubber bands, which she had never played with or used, she added.

Now that she has discovered digital painting, Nika said she prefers it to the old-fashioned way of drawing with crayons and color pencils.

Faster, easier

"It is easier and faster to paint using the computer. It is complete with tools. There are paintbrushes, erasers and fills," Nika said.

And unlike other children who use the computer as a game board, she would much rather use it for art.

"I like painting more than playing games on the computer," Nika added.

Her biggest dream is to see her computer paintings on big canvases while Ricky's dream is to see his daughter's paintings on postcards and greeting cards.

Compared to traditional artwork like painting done manually, digital art has yet to gain the same degree of respect, according to Internet websites, possibly because of the ease and convenience provided by computer programs, contradicting the patience and craftsmanship of traditional painters.

"Art is relative in a sense. The digital painter has the same passion as a hand artist. With digital painting, the creative artist can make a thousand artwork and make that available to a larger audience," said Ricky who had fallen in love with traditional painting during a time when computers did not yet exist.

Closer to their dreams

Taking advantage of his experience as a public relations practitioner, Ricky has succeeded in bringing his daughter closer to their dreams: her work, printed on photo papers, were displayed in a recent exhibit at the SM Megamall.

The week-long exhibit began on Monday as part of a free summer art workshop for children sponsored by the mall.

"We were already planning a workshop for kids when we received a proposal from Mr. Manzano last month," mall marketing officer Mabee Burga told the INQUIRER.

She said that was the first time they displayed the work of a computer painter.

Ricky did his homework: not only did the mall provide his daughter free space for the exhibit, he also managed to get Epson, a computer printer company, to sponsor the display.

He said Nika's work would also be displayed in other malls in the next few weeks. *With Eliza A. Victoria*

NIKA and her masterpieces.

ROGER CARPIO

THE ARTIST and her "canvas"

ROGER CARPIO

Parañaque school will reopen in June

By Jocelyn R. Uy

ST. ANDREW'S SCHOOL, WHICH HAS BEEN closed since Feb. 20, will reopen next month.

The Parañaque City government yesterday gave this assurance to the school's teachers, students and their parents.

Nelson Lacambra, spokesperson of Mayor Florencio Bernabe, said that the city government has bought a Russian-made mercury analyzer unit which is expected to speed up the clean-up of the school.

The school was shut down after 80 students were exposed to mercury on Feb. 16 during a science experiment. Thirteen were later hospitalized for showing symptoms of exposure to the chemical.

Tests conducted following a clean-up showed that a high level of the chemical remained in parts of the school, prompting its officials to keep it closed. Classes resumed after a month, but these were held at the nearby St. Paul's College.

Bernabe, in a statement, said the special equipment—the Lumex 915 Plus All-Time Mercury Analyzer—which is worth P3 million, can examine mercury levels in the blood, air, water and soil .

"The advantage of this equipment over other similarly dedicated machines is that it provides results in real time without having to wait for hours or days to know the test results," the mayor added.

When asked about the level of mercury contamination in the school, Lacambra told the INQUIRER over the phone yesterday: "The machine will, once and for all, determine [that]."

He added that the machine will be delivered to the City Health Office tomorrow. A Russian specialist-trainer will arrive next week to conduct a one-week training and seminar on how to operate the machine from May 22 to 29 at the City Hall.

Air samples will also be taken from the school for analysis, CHO head Dr. Olga Virtusio said.

Manila policemen recapture two more escapees

By Tina G. Santos

TWO MORE PRISONERS WHO ESCAPED from their cell at the Manila Police District Station 7 on Friday morning were recaptured by authorities yesterday.

Florecel Gutierrez and Roy Serrano were re-arrested by policemen led by Supt. Arturo Paglinawan, chief of the Jose Abad Santos police station in Tondo.

Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong, MPD director, said the two inmates, who were detained on gambling and drug charges, respectively, were apprehended in separate operations.

Nine more on the loose

Aside from Gutierrez and Serrano, six of the 17 inmates who escaped have been recaptured, including one who gave himself up to authorities. They were identified as Jonathan Pantig, Christian Garcia, Jaime Salcedo, Roberto Macalalad, Rolando Alba and Marlon Fernando.

Nine more remain at large—Sonny delos Reyes, Rolando Dizon, Jonathan Poreda, Carlito Relox, Ariel Dollente, Roosevelt Bondoc, Divino Jimenez, Rolando Bautista and Edwin Magusara,

Paglinawan said all police stations in Manila, including the Manila Police Trackers, have been alerted to immediately go after the escapees.

Investigation showed that the inmates sneaked out of their cell at around 3:15 a.m. last Friday.

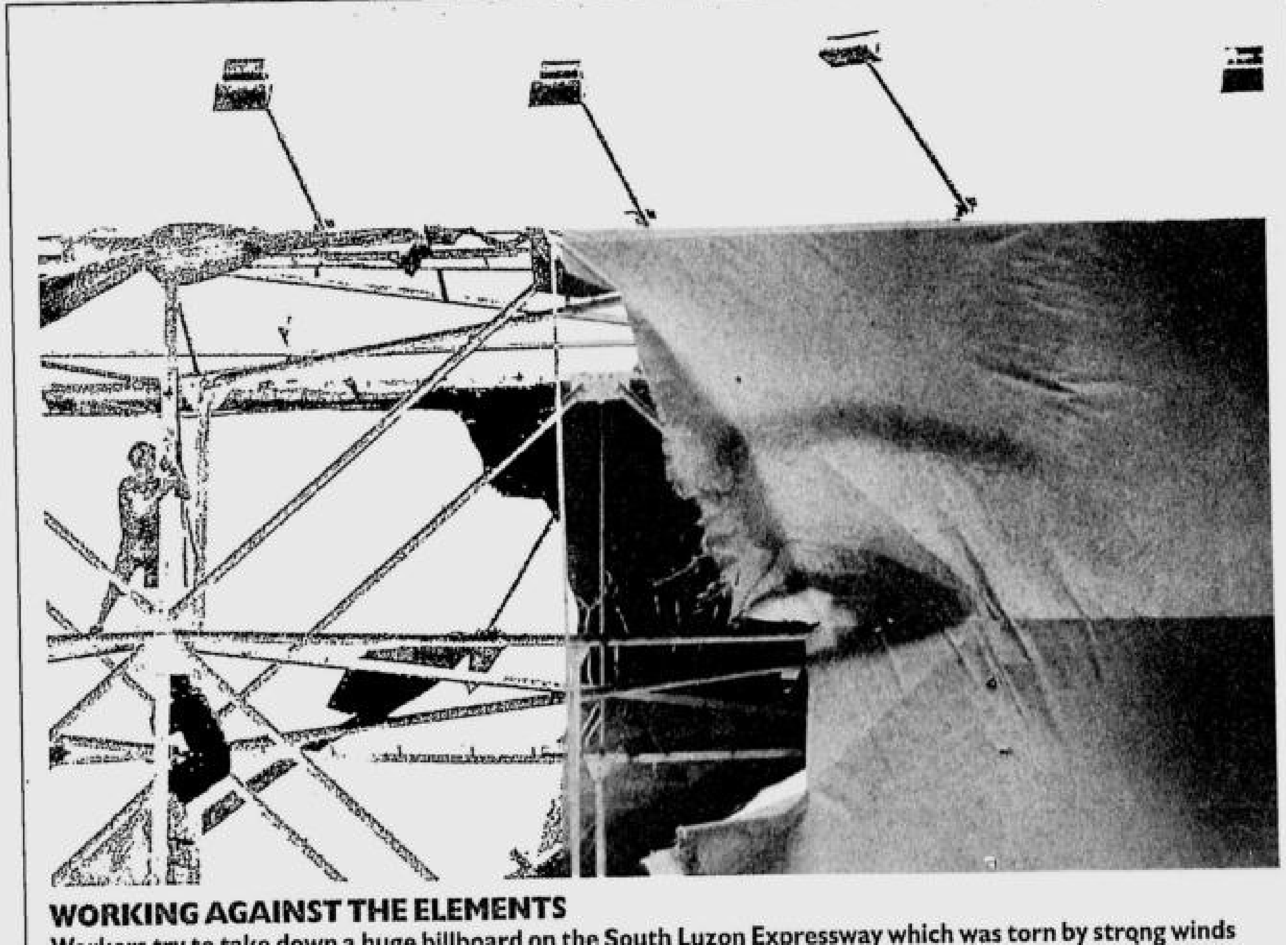
Police said the suspects may have used a pick lock in opening the cell door, contrary to the claims of some inmates that they used a steel pipe to destroy the padlock.

After unlocking the cell door, the detainees got out through the station's back door.

Paglinawan said the location of the jail and the station desk made it hard for guards to monitor the inmates' moves.

Sunrise and sunset serenades once more...

From page A25



WORKING AGAINST THE ELEMENTS

Workers try to take down a huge billboard on the South Luzon Expressway which was torn by strong winds caused by "Caloy."

REM ZAMORA

companies they represent.

At present, the different committees created for the Carillon restoration are deciding which proposal from international restorers to accept, Iglesias said.

However, they cannot award the contract just yet, because a portion of the fund needed to restore the bells has to be ready at the time of signing, she added.

Though the UPAA has collected a considerable amount, it is still far from its target of about P20 million, considering that the pledges have yet to translate into cash, Iglesias said.

Apart from preserving the musicality of the bells, the restoration project also involves landscaping the immediate surroundings of the tower, Iglesias said.

Another goal is to institutionalize the Carillon's operation by opening a scholarship for a "carilloneur," or someone trained to play the bells.

Right now, the committees are still debating what would be better: to repair or replace the bells. Replacing them would be a lot more expensive, but repairing them would not return the original "perfect sound" of the bells.

But if one were to ask Iglesias, she would prefer to simply restore the old bells.

"The Carillon really refers to the bells," she said. "The bells represent the Carillon's history and legacy. If we install another set, it would no longer be the same Carillon." *With LJ Pasion*

High fuel prices push Metro rail ridership to all-time high

By Daxim L. Lucas

RISING FUEL PRICES MAY BE pushing more and more commuters to rely on the mass transport system to get to work instead of driving their own cars, according to the latest data from the Metro Rail Transit Corp.

The trend was especially evident on the MRT Line-3—known as the Metrostar Express—which traverses the length of Edsa, Metro Manila's main artery.

During the first quarter of the year, a total of 34.2 million commuters rode on the MRT-3, data from the company showed. The figure represented an 11.2 percent increase in ridership compared to 30.2 million commuters during the same period in 2005.

Heavy traffic

Apart from rising fuel costs, Transportation Assistant Secretary Roberto R. Castañares said commuters are now increasingly conscious of the inconveniences posed by driving to work such as heavy traffic.

As many as 450,000 commuters ride on the MRT-3 on weekdays. The figure, however, goes down to 200,000 on weekends.

According to the MRT, 11.5 million passengers rode on its trains in January, representing a 14.5 percent hike from 10.1 million riders in January 2005.

Some 10.7 commuters used its service in February, or a hike of 8.3 percent from the 9.9 million commuters in February 2005.

In March, 11.9 million commuters took the MRT, representing a 9.2 percent hike over 10.7 million riders reported during the same period last year.

Record high

March's ridership figures represented a record high for the service.

Company officials now expect this number to go up further once classes begin next month.

Although ridership has gone up, the trains' capacity, however, has remained the same since the service was inaugurated in 1998. Conditions on board the trains are especially cramped during the morning and evening rush hours.

To solve the problem, the transportation department has entered into an agreement with the city government of Vienna, Austria which will donate its second-hand trains to the Philippines for the system's expansion program.

Under the scheme, the Viennese local government will donate in several batches up to 48 light rail vehicles which will be used to boost the capacity of the heavily congested line.

These trains will be refurbished at a cost of $500,000 per coach for a total of about $24 million, assuming that it stays on budget.

GLOBAL Pin
Editor Gerry Lirio

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This section is dedicated to Filipinos overseas toiling on land and at sea, in factories, in construction sites and in the homes of the world, and wherever work can secure a better life for their families. These are their stori

'My mother is in jail; I owe her everything'

THE AUTHOR'S MOM IN JAPAN, 2005: Marina Contreras looking for a new coat in a shopping center in Kawasaki, a few months before her second arrest and detention in Yokohama.

By Jeric G. Contreras
Contributor

THIS IS A DAY OF CELEBRATION for most sons and daughters.

But while the rest of the world joyfully mark Mother's Day, I feel no reason to celebrate the event. This day only brings me more pain and grief as my mother cannot be with us physically.

For almost 10 years now, she has been working abroad to earn a living to support our family. I was a grade four student in a public elementary school in 1996 when she left. I am the eldest in a family of six so when she left to work abroad, I had to assume some responsibility for the well-being and welfare of my siblings. My father worked hard to keep the family together even without my mom.

I focused on my studies since this was the only way to repay her for her hard work and sacrifices. I promised myself I would not put all these to waste. She is such a courageous woman, going abroad even without a working visa.

For a long time, she was able to work in Japan without a working permit.

Arrested, imprisoned

But in 2003, she was arrested by the Japanese immigration authorities. She spent three months in prison before she was sent back to the Philippines.

After almost seven years, the family saw her again, although her homecoming was not quite easy for her.

But the fact that the family was whole again made her ordeal in the hands of Japanese officers seem unimportant. We put up a small business in the province, just enough to provide for our daily needs. We made the most of the short time she stayed in the country.

A few months later, however, she decided to return to Japan unmindful of the five-year ban on returning imposed by the Japanese government.

I honestly thought she would not go back, considering her unhappy experience in jail. The family did not want her to return and was totally opposed to her working abroad again. She already had enough money to start a good business.

Re-arrested

But she was keen on returning to Japan despite the family opposition. She said she would not be able to earn here what she got abroad. By then, my younger sister and I were already in college, and the family needed money for our education.

She was able to secure a tourist visa to Japan, this time, paying somebody to be allowed to use a stranger's name and identity. The agency that facilitated her visa application processed the papers she needed to enter Japan.

She was able to work again only to be re-arrested in January.

I was receiving my award for being on the Dean's List when I learned of her second arrest. I felt a mix of emotions. I was happy to receive the award, but sad and worried about her.

After calling us almost every week, I haven't heard a single word from her since her arrest. The family got a short letter in March telling us her living condition in a prison somewhere in Japan.

3 years in jail

I immediately tried to contact the Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA) to find out the real situation of my mom. Last week, a DFA staff member called to inform me that my mother had to serve the sentence imposed by a Japanese court. She has to stay in prison for almost three years.

Three years is quite a long time. I am very worried about her (never mind the financial problem the family faces at present).

So today, Mother's Day, I dedicate this special day to her. She's a brave and strong mother. I could not have gained this much strength were it not for her support. I know she is a strong mother.

Nothing can ever compensate for the sacrifices she made to give us a good future. Though she is currently detained somewhere in Yokohama, I would like her to know that, for us, she is a real hero. I would like to tell her to be strong and and to keep praying. God is merciful. He only gives us trials and challenges that we cannot overcome.

Missing you

I owe her everything I have—family, education, values, and a good life in general. Her decision to be a TNT (*tago nang tago*) in a foreign country was perilous from the start, but she took the risk for our sake. Her second arrest will surely serve as a learning experience for her and the family.

I wish I could hug her tight today. I wish I could thank her personally for the things she has done for us. But she has to stay in prison in Yokohama for three years.

The next three years will surely be a challenging time for the family. We will no longer get financial support from her. No new clothes, new gadgets and stuff. No *kumustahan* telephone calls. No greetings on special occasions.

But I know this is simply God's way of testing us, if we can stand firmly and overcome the difficulties that lie ahead. She went abroad primarily to support our studies, but she will miss our graduation in March next year.

Waiting

My sister and I will graduate from college while our two young brothers are graduating from high school and elementary. She has long waited for the day we will receive our diplomas, a day of fulfillment for her when she can finally come home and stop working abroad.

But God might have a different plan for her.

To my 43-year-old mother, I say, let this be your special day. Don't give up. We shall be waiting for you to come home. When you do, we will have our family picture taken (we have not had a single photograph of the whole family since she went abroad).

You are one of the world's great moms. I am not ashamed to tell the whole world how great my mother is. I love you. Be strong!

Jeric G. Contreras, 20, is a student at San Beda College, taking up AB Philosophy and Human Resource Development. He is at present the president of the school's Philosophy and Human Resource Development Circle; and president of the League of SK Councilors in Hagonoy, Bulacan.

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- PHILIPPINE GREENS INSTITUTE (PGI)
- PROJECT SEAHORSE FOUNDATION FOR MARINE CONSERVATION
- PUERTO GALERA TOURISM SECTOR COORDINATING ASSOCIATION (TOSCA)
- RAINBOW INTERVENTION CENTER FOR AUTISM FOUNDATION, INC. (RICAFI)
- RINCONADA MOVEMENT FOR ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (RINCOMESA)
- SAAKLAT SISIKAT (SAS) FOUNDATION, INC.
- SAMAR MICROCREDIT COOPERATIVE (SAMICO)
- SAMBOKSILAN DE LIBON, INC.
- SAVE THE IFUGAO TERRACES MOVEMENT (SITMO)
- SHONTOUG FOUNDATION, INC.
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- STA. TERESITA OF MIARAYON, INC. (STM)
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- SUSTAINABLE RURAL ENTERPRISE (SRE)
- TAHANANG WALANG HAGDANAN, INC
- TOMMUANAN DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION, INC.
- UNIVERSITY OF BOHOL MEDICAL REHABILITATION CENTER (UBRMC)
- UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES INSTITUTE OF HUMAN RIGHTS
- UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES LOS BAÑOS, COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE AGRICULTURAL SYSTEMS CLUSTERS
- UPHOLDING LIFE AND NATURE (ULAN)
- URBAN POOR SMALL FISHERMEN'S ASSOCIATION, INC (UPSFAI)
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Single, childless woman, mom to Pinoys in Dubai

By Kenneth M. del Rosario
Contributor

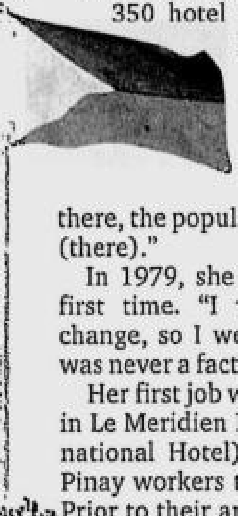
LUCILA "LUCILLE" ONG, 54, HAS BEEN WORKING IN DUBAI FOR almost 27 years now, only occasionally coming home for a vacation. Single and childless, she has instead given birth to countless ideas and efforts to bring her fellow overseas Filipino workers (OFW) to the forefront of Dubai's fast-growing economy.

She is loved and respected by other OFWs in Dubai for helping uplift the image of Filipinos there.

Yet, the pioneer in fashion design and Filipino furniture trading and marketing in Dubai feels that calling her "The Mother of OFW's" is a little too much.

Ong was third of four daughters of a Filipino mother and a Chinese father. "I grew up in the company of strong women. There were five (including her mom) of us and just one man (her father)," Ong told the INQUIRER in an overseas phone interview.

She started working for the Midtown Ramada Hotel in Manila in 1976, shortly after graduating from the University of the Philippines with a degree in Hotel and Restaurant Administration.



After three years, she joined more than 350 hotel workers hired for work in Dubai.

Ong had to take a crash course on the country. "I didn't even know where Dubai was. Nobody could explain to me how is life there, the population, or what I could expect (there)."

In 1979, she left the Philippines for the first time. "I was young and I wanted change, so I went for it," she said. Money was never a factor.

Her first job was as coffee shop supervisor in Le Meridien Hotel (then the Dubai International Hotel). She was one of the first Pinay workers to deal directly with clients. Prior to their arrival, women, except for female doctors and nurses, were given mainly office work.

With a little help from some friends, she bought a fashion house in Dubai, and has since then directed royal weddings in the capital

ONG (middle) with friends enjoying a night out in Dubai.

Living in a compound with other Filipino workers cushioned the impact of being away from her family. "The noise you hear is Tagalog so you won't get lost. Of course you miss your family but the impact was less. How could you have a hard time adjusting (when you are among) 350 Filipinos with you?"

Career change

She wrote to her family and telephoned them as often as her hectic schedule would allow. She also sent taped messages. Sending money then was done through the "padala system" care of other Filipinos going home because sending money was expensive through the bank and takes a long time, but now it is very fast and with Western Union; it takes only a couple of minutes and your money is received in Manila, she said.

Ong would surf the Internet to know what's happening in the country, and watch Filipino television shows, to learn the latest "chismis" at home.

When her first contract expired in 1981, she moved to Condor Trading, learning the trading game in Dubai.

She later transferred to Al Fajer Information and Services, one of two exhibition companies in Dubai, then joined Arushi, a "super high-end fashion house." The company made all the gowns and wedding dresses of major princesses in the United Arab Emirates, Qatar and Oman.

She decided to set off on her own in 1995 and, in partnership with a friend, bought "Balqis," the oldest fashion establishment in Dubai. "Majority of our clients are royalty," Ong said, saying she was involved with every single royal wedding and other special occasions.

Her experience with local ladies was "very fulfilling, very stressful," she said, so in 2004, she put up the Philippine Pavilion Trading LLC (Philpav), a marketing firm for "quality household furniture and home decors from the Philippines."

Ong is confident she has a big market with all the Filipinos in the Middle East. And, after moving from one job to another, Ong said, "This is what I plan to do for the rest of my stay here, (and I will) stay here while the business is still good and I still like it here."

First in RP furnishings

Ong is probably the first one to trade in Philippine furniture and home decor in a Muslim country.

A founding member of the Philippine Business Council (PBC), a nonprofit organization of Filipino entrepreneurs and professionals in Dubai, she has been its chair since 2004. The organization with 25 members is recognized by the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry and one of 32 business councils certified to operate in Dubai.

Though she feels "blessed" that she succeeded, she stressed it had not been easy. "None of these (successes) happened overnight. I didn't just sit around. I worked hard," she said.

She is happy she took her father's advice about becoming an entrepreneur: "If you are on your own, your limit is what you set yourself ... your *sipag*." And *sipag* Ong obviously has lots of.

If there is one thing Ong learned during her stay in Dubai, it is that she will always be a guest in the country. "It's a temporary place. No matter how long I've been here, it's still (a) transit (point)."

She advises future OFWs to make sure they have employment visas and to go through legal channels. "A lot of Filipinos (remain) jobless because they came with a visit visa while hoping (to) get a job," Ong said.

She said future OFWs should know what they're getting into.

Despite her successful business, Ong said, "I have no intentions at all (of retiring in Dubai). I'm looking forward to going home to the Philippines for good."

When she comes home, she does not plan to just sit around. "I will take care of my family in the province," Ong said in Filipino.

The PHILIPPINES
Global Village
TREASURE HUNT
PHILIPPINES

ONG, a pioneer in the marketing of high end Philippine furniture at the United Arab Emirates, stands tall at a 2002 Philippine exhibit in Dubai.

FAST FACTS

OFWs in United Arab Emirates

Filipino population (as of 2004)	**205,967**
Certified OFWs	185,562
Undocumented	20,000
Permanent residents	405
Deployed OFWs in 2005	**32,278**
Service (domestic helpers, waiters,)	18,295
Laborers	7,057
Clerical	2,829
Salespersons	2,138
Professional (engineers, nurses, teachers,)	2,060
Administrative & managerial	101
Agricultural	29
Others (not stated)	219
Remittances*, in million US$	**257.4**

*Remittances from Abu Dhabi and Dubai

Sources: Commission on Filipinos Overseas, Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas

Compiled by: Maricar Talosa, PDI Research

After 20 years in HK, a matriarch retires

By Isabel Escoda

OVER THE YEARS IN WHICH Filipinas have flooded into Hong Kong to work as domestics, some interesting histories have emerged. Many of the women's stories are worthy material for sociologists tackling the issue of migrant workers. In fact, American writer Barbara Ehrenreich's book "Global Woman" features profiles of Filipina domestics abroad which are both inspiring and heart-wrenching.

I know one such woman with an engrossing history. Adela, who has worked for 20 years in Hong Kong, and her husband Gaby (now 60, who has himself spent the past 10 years in Hong Kong) are from Surigao. With their accumulated savings, the couple now say they're ready to "retire." They say this jocosely because they know the future will be a struggle, thanks to worries about his arthritis and her high blood pressure, as well as the support of grandchildren left behind by migrant working parents.

One-woman agency

Adela's story mirrors that of many other Filipinas toiling abroad. But hers features a generational cycle which has brought several relatives out of her barrio to a first world enclave like Hong Kong.

It was 20 years ago when she used up her savings to pay a recruiter who found her an employer in the territory. Her eldest son working in Riyadh also contributed to the payment.

Her Hong Kong employers turned out to be a retired British couple who seemed kind enough at first but gradually became fussy and demanding. Adela recounted feeling demeaned when the lady of the house, on showing her her chores, asked if she'd seen a refrigerator before. ("I may be poor, but I'm not ignorant," Adela retorted.) Easily mastering her duties, she became an indispensable servant.

Every two years, Adela took the obligatory two-week leave to go home where she found that her husband, as well as various relatives, were finding life a struggle despite her regular remittances.

Going to Hong Kong

So she decided to find them work in Hong Kong, first obtaining Chinese employers for two of her nieces. Most importantly, she was also able to persuade her employers to hire her husband as a gardener and handyman around their home. However they agreed only to pay half the minimum wage, which he eventually supplemented with part-time work elsewhere. This is actually illegal, but the practice is quite widespread because, while there are occasional arrests, the authorities cannot police everyone.

Eight years ago Adela and Gaby's son Ding wound up work in Saudi Arabia and arrived in Hong Kong for a visit. He met Marlyn, a nanny for an Australian couple, and they decided to marry. Adela suggested that Marlyn persuade her employers to hire Ding, the same way she had persuaded hers to hire Gaby. Luckily the employers agreed, allowing Ding to obtain residency.

Soon the young couple produced three children—each one of whom Marlyn took back to Surigao when they were barely a month old and left them in the care of relatives. This is a common practice among other women who get pregnant (with Filipino or foreign husbands) and who are lucky to have relatives willing to babysit, thereby adding to the large numbers of Filipino children growing up without their mothers.

Appreciative kids

Interestingly, Ehrenreich's book shows that there are some cases where children of OFWs grow up not too traumatized by the absence of their mothers, who are appreciative of the sacrifice involved and aware of the advantages of having financial support.

Adela's luck in finding jobs for her relatives has made her the matriarch of the clan as she helps negotiate labor contracts, and sometimes smoothens over occasional differences with employers.

One such episode involved the Filipina wife of a Canadian businessman who had hired Adela's daughter-in-law Marisa as a cook. Marisa is married to Adela's younger son Nonong with whom she has two children. Nonong visited Hong Kong, hoping to find work but failed and returned to Surigao.

When Marisa went home for her first holiday after two years, she had to delay her return to Hongkong because her youngest child was hospitalized. Reporting back to work two days late, she found herself fired by her furious Filipina employer.

Marisa turned to Adela for help. The latter knew the woman's background well and had an ace up her sleeve, so she went to plead for Marisa.

Adela related the story to me later. It seems the Filipina had once been a housemaid at the Canadian's home. He was married to an American career woman and they had a daughter. The Filipina confided in Adela that she was in love with her employer whose marriage, she claimed, was a sham. Declaring that she aimed to become his wife, she set her plan in motion. She later told Adela that whenever the wife was out, seducing the man was easy—she dressed provocatively and once arranged to have him see her naked. To her delight, he succumbed but wanted to be furtive, not wishing to lose his wife. At which the temptress arranged for them to be caught having sex. It wasn't long afterwards that the Filipina became the Canadian's new wife.

So Adela went to talk to the woman, begging for "awa" (pity) for Marisa, and hinting ever so subtly that she had always kept her secret about the seduction. (An untruth, since she seems to have told not just me but most of the Pinoy community in the neighborhood.)

Sorely missed

Marisa still has her job, though she reports being treated very badly by her mistress. Adela remarked ironically, "*Parang hindi siya katulong noong dati*" (As though she once wasn't a maid herself). Sadly, the former housemaid now lords it over her own servant quite vindictively. But Marisa doesn't grumble much, knowing she's fortunate to still have a job to support her children and husband who doesn't earn much driving a tricycle in Surigao.

Adela's impending "retirement" means she'll be sorely missed by her young relatives whose lives she's made a bit easier.

New arrivals can't wait to leave country again

By Nikko Dizon

THEY'RE HOME NOW, BUT most likely, just for a while.

Their having languished in jail in Saudi Arabia—some for just a few days, others for many months—does not deter them from still dreaming of finding work abroad.

For their families to survive, the best option is still for them to work outside the Philippines.

"I am going back. I'll just take a rest. Life's so hard here," Johnny Dava, 38, told the INQUIRER in an interview last Thursday.

Dava worked for two years as a cake decorator in Saudi Arabia, but poor working conditions forced him to run away from his employer.

For that, he was arrested and jailed for several months.

His destiny

Dava was among the 170 Filipino workers who arrived here last Thursday after having been pardoned by Saudi King Abdullah during President Macapagal-Arroyo's state visit last week.

But they were not the only OFWs who returned that day, tasted freedom, and yet, still yearned to work abroad.

A 15-year-old girl from Sultan Kudarat who was not given food and slept in a dank, cramped jail for five days in Damascus, Syria, said she still dreams of finding work as a domestic helper overseas.

"I want to work as a DH because I envied my cousins. They work as domestic helpers abroad and they all now have a good life. I want that for my family, too," the girl said. The INQUIRER is withholding the girl's identity, she being a minor.

Despite her young age, the girl is determined to fulfill her goal.

She and seven other Filipino women were apprehended right at the Damascus airport last week because immigration officials discovered they did not have the proper employment documents.

She was released with two other Filipino workers.

They are now staying at the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Halfway Home. The rest are still in jail.

"Next time," she said, "I'll make sure the recruiter will show me the right documents. I will not leave the country without signing proper documents. I will not leave without an employer waiting for me."

The girl said she also would want to finish her studies with the money she'd be able to earn as a domestic helper.

Noel Posadas, a 38-year-old native of Daet, Camarines Norte, said that it must really been his destiny to work overseas.

Posadas worked as a chief engineer for eight years in Riyadh. He was jailed for drinking alcohol.

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Vain search for injured after oil fireball

Over 200 Nigerians pilfering oil burned beyond recognition in explosion

LAGOS—OFFICIALS OF THE NIGERIAN RED Cross searched in vain Friday for people injured following a pipeline blast near Nigerian commercial capital Lagos in which more than 200 people were believed burned to death.

"We have combed through the bushes and nearby creeks to see if we can find those injured so that we give them medical assistance," Red Cross Secretary General Abiodun Orebiyi said.

"We have seen none yet. We are appealing to those who may be in hiding to come out for medical attention," he said.

Police and rescue workers said the villagers had been collecting the gushing fuel when the fuel ignited.

"The estimated number of people who died is between 150 and 200...The people who died in the inferno are suspected to be pipeline vandals," Lagos police chief Emmanuel Adebayo told reporters, although another security official put the toll at more than 200.

"None (of the fuel thieves) is remaining alive to tell us the story of how it started," said Adebayo, in a statement suggesting that all the suspected fuel thieves at the Ilado village beach scene of the explosion were burned to death.

The Nigerian Red Cross had earlier reported more than 100 deaths from the blast early Friday at Ilado beach village, near Apapa seaport where numerous oil installations are located.

Scorched beyond recognition, corpses floated on the water or lay exposed on the sand as rescue workers and police picked through the debris.

Lagos-based Channels private television Friday evening showed footage of the vandalized pipeline and some charred corpses being removed by rescue officials from the scene of the blast.

Officials said it would likely happen again.

"Because this thing has happened many times before we thought it would be a deterrent, but apparently it wasn't enough deterrent for these people who died," said Lagos State Health Commissioner Tola Kasali.

"Anywhere you have a pipeline in this country, you have this problem because people are greedy and they want quick money."

Close to 2,000 people have died in more than a dozen pipeline explosions across the country between 1998 and 2003.

In the worst single recorded incident in October 1998, 1,082 people thought to have been siphoning off fuel died in Jesse, in the oil-rich southern Delta State, after a pipeline there erupted. *AFP, AP*

A BURNT scooper trying to escape from the oil blast at Ilado in Lagos, May 12. AFP

New traces of bomb-grade uranium found in Iran

BERLIN/BRUSSELS—UN INSPECTORS HAVE found traces of near bomb-grade enriched uranium on nuclear equipment in Iran, diplomats said on Friday, as the EU prepared a declaration that will insist Tehran shelve all enrichment work.

Iran signaled undiminished confidence in a lack of big power resolve against its atomic work with President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad calling Western pressure "psychological propaganda" and the US-mooted, last-resort option of war "unlikely."

The United States and its Western allies suspect Iran's professed ambition to purify uranium to generate electricity is a smokescreen for an atomic bomb programme, a concern stoked by Tehran's 18-year concealment of sensitive enrichment research.

The new discovery by UN inspectors of high-enriched uranium traces in Iran was made on equipment from a former research site razed by Iran in 2004 before the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) could examine it, diplomats said.

A diplomat in Vienna, where the IAEA is based, confirmed the new finding from the former Lavizan-Shian site but cautioned:

"It's no smoking gun. There could be many explanations. But it increases pressure on Iran to come clean about Lavizan."

Reacting to the report, Iranian foreign ministry spokesperson Hamid Reza Asefi told the students' news agency ISNA:

"These comments lack any importance and do not come from a real source."

Word of the discovery came as EU officials were shaping a "carrots and sticks" offer for Iran. Diplomats hope to have the offer ready in time for a May 19 meeting in London of the five veto-holding big powers on the Security Council plus Germany.

"(The EU) calls on Iranian authorities to cooperate fully with the (UN nuclear watchdog) IAEA, suspend all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development," said a draft declaration obtained by Reuters and destined for an EU foreign ministers' meeting on Monday.

But Tehran said on Thursday its nuclear research and development program, which has already succeeded in producing low-enriched uranium suitable for power plants, would not be halted in return for any Western sweeteners.

The draft statement gave no details of that package but said: "The EU would be prepared to support Iran's development of a safe, sustainable and proliferation-proof civilian nuclear program if international concerns were fully addressed and confidence in Iran's intentions established."

Implicit in that formula is that Iran would import enriched uranium rather than produce its own, thus minimizing the risk it could produce highly-enriched bomb-grade fuel.

The EU package would expand on an offer made last August which Iran rejected. The new version is likely to contain a mix of assistance to Iran's civil nuclear program, freer trade with Europe and political incentives, diplomats say. *Reuters*

British woman pregnant with cancer-gene-free 'designer baby'

LONDON—A BRITISH WOMAN has become the first in the country to conceive a "designer baby" selected specifically to avoid an inherited cancer, The Times said Saturday.

The woman, who was not identified, used controversial genetic screening technology to ensure she does not pass on to her child the condition retinoblastoma, an hereditary form of eye cancer from which she suffers.

Doctors tested embryos created by the woman and her partner using in-vitro fertilization (IVF) methods for the cancer gene. Only unaffected embryos were implanted in her womb, the newspaper said.

It suggested the woman's pregnancy would increase controversy over the procedure—pre-implantation genetic diagnosis (PGD)—because critics say it involves destroying otherwise healthy embryos whose conditions are treatable.

She was treated by Paul Serhal, the country's leading specialist in PGD who has licenses from regulator the Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority (HFEA) to screen for retinoblastoma and a form of bowel cancer.

The HFEA relaxed rules earlier this week allowing embryos to be screened for a wider number of genetically-inherited diseases. PGD has been used successfully before in the United States, The Times said. *AFP*

FBI agents search former CIA No. 3's home, office

WASHINGTON—FEDERAL agents on Friday searched the home and office of the CIA's former third-highest ranking official who is under investigation because of ties to a figure in a congressional bribery scandal.

Kyle "Dusty" Foggo, who announced his retirement from the CIA on Monday, is being investigated by five agencies due to his long-standing friendship with defense contractor Brent Wilkes, an unindicted co-conspirator in the bribery case that landed former US Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham of California in prison, officials said.

Foggo's lawyer was not immediately available for comment but Foggo, formerly executive director of the agency, has denied any wrongdoing.

Foggo had been appointed by CIA Director Porter Goss, who himself resigned a week ago. Administration officials were unhappy with Goss over publicity surrounding the Foggo case after his ties with Wilkes became public in March.

On Friday, the CIA declined to say whether Foggo was still employed by the spy agency.

Federal agents with sealed search warrants showed up at Foggo's office at CIA headquarters in McLean, Virginia, and at his nearby home.

Live news footage showed plainclothes agents and a white Chevrolet van outside a modest split-level brick house in a quiet Virginia suburb.

The CIA said the searches were part of a joint investigation by the FBI and the CIA inspector general's office. Also investigating are the Internal Revenue Service, the Defense Criminal Investigative Service and the US attorney's office in San Diego, officials said.

"The agency is cooperating fully with the Department of Justice and the FBI as this is an ongoing investigation," the CIA said in a statement.

The CIA has acknowledged its inspector general is investigating whether Foggo helped steer any agency contracts to Wilkes, a San Diego businessman who has not been charged with any crime. *Reuters*

DISPUTED MUMMY MASK

The St. Louis Art Museum will keep the 3,200-year-old burial mask of Ka Nefer Nefer (shown above) unless it gets more proof it belongs to Egypt. The museum won't meet a May 15 deadline set by Egyptian antiquities authorities to return the mask, museum director Brent Benjamin said May 12. AP

WORLDBRIEFS

Japan confirms 26th case of mad cow

TOKYO—Japan confirmed its 26th case of mad cow disease in a 5-year-old Holstein, the agriculture ministry said Saturday. Meat inspectors in Hokkaido prefecture (state) in northern Japan found Thursday that the dairy cow tested positive for the disease, the ministry said in a statement. Japan, which conducts mad cow tests on all cattle killed for meat, has confirmed 26 cases since 2001. *AP*

Koreas plan first train run in 55 years

SEOUL—North and South Korea plan to send the first trains across their heavily fortified border in 55 years when they test rail links later this month, the South's unification ministry said on Saturday. South Korea is keen for trains to cross the border. There are two sets of tracks that run from the South and into North Korea, but South Korean officials said the North's powerful military has been reluctant to sign off on a plan for through trains. Officials from the two Koreas this week held their 12th round of talks on the rail links in the North Korean border city of Kaesong. The talks ended early on Saturday. They agreed to have test runs that will cover a small length of track on rail links on the east and west coasts of the peninsula, the two said in a statement released by the ministry. *Reuters*

Workplace raises risk of having small baby

NEW YORK—A variety of occupational conditions experienced by pregnant women can increase the likelihood of having a small infant, according to a report in the American Journal of Public Health. One of the main risk factors is having an irregular or shift-work schedule. The good news is that eliminating these factors before the 24th week of pregnancy can bring the odds down to those of unexposed women, the report indicates. A so-called "small-for-gestational" or SGA, infant is one that is smaller than normal in relation to the stage of pregnancy. Typically, their birth weights fall below the 10th percentile. SGA infants are at increased risk for a number of problems, including low levels of oxygen and blood sugar at birth. Factors that had a cumulative effect on risk included working night hours, irregular or shift-work schedule, standing, lifting loads, noise, and high psychological demand coupled with low social support. Compared with the complete absence of these conditions, the risk of having an SGA infant ranged from 8 to 129 percent when one to all six of these conditions were present. However, as noted, when preventive measures were taken before the 24th week of pregnancy, such as reassignment to a safer job or withdrawal from work, the elevated risks were largely eliminated. *Reuters*

Bush may send troops along US-Mexico border in immigration crackdown

WASHINGTON—PRESIDENT George W. Bush, in a nationally-televised speech Monday, is expected to propose tougher immigration enforcement measures along US-Mexico border, including the use of additional troops, US media reported Friday.

The New York Times and other media reported that the president is likely to discuss the deployment of national guard troops—a move governors in US border states have advocated for some time.

The reports came on the same day that US Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld held talks in Washington with his Mexican counterpart Gen. Clemente Ricardo Vega on border issues.

"We have many important things to coordinate with Mexico, for example the border, the war against narcotics trafficking, joint training," said Pentagon spokesperson Jeff Gordon.

On Monday Bush is expected to propose measures for tougher border enforcement as part of his comprehensive immigration reform plan, which until now had focused almost entirely on putting in place a guest worker program that could legalize the status of the roughly 11.5 million illegal immigrants in the United States.

White House spokesperson Tony Snow said Friday that the president would offer revisions to his past immigration proposals, but declined, other than in the most general terms, to say what Bush would say in the speech.

"The president will be laying out his comprehensive proposal for immigration reform," said Snow, the president's new chief spokesperson.

His remarks Monday will come on the same day the Senate is expected to renew its debate on immigration reform and legalizing the status of illegal immigrants, which has been stalled for more than a month.

Bush will give the speech at 8 p.m. Monday from the White House.

"The president at this point is more focused on trying to tackle such issues as immigration," said Snow, who said Bush's decision to make a speech on the issue was influenced at least in part by the legislative schedule.

"The Senate has agreed to take this up," Snow said. "This is crunch time on the issue."

Bush has called for the creation of a temporary guest worker program for illegal immigrants, but popular sentiment is in favor of strengthening border patrols to stem the inflow, some polls have shown.

Senate Republican Majority Leader Bill Frist on Friday gave his backing to the deployment of new troops on the border with Mexico.

"I would support that," Frist told CNN television, when asked about the idea.

Frist said the federal government should use "their resources—it could be national guard—to come in to secure those borders." *AFP*

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Sunday SPORTS

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NCR seals Palaro double victory

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NAGA CITY (VIA BAYANTEL)—NATIONAL CAPITAL Region stayed hot despite the cold, stormy weather and completed a championship double in the 2006 Palarong Pambansa yesterday at the Metro Naga Sports Complex.

The Metro Manilans, represented by almost a thousand athletes and officials, led practically all the way with sustained brilliance on all fronts to retain the secondary title and dislodge Calabarzon as elementary champion.

NCR amassed 269.5 points in the secondary division and 275.6 points in the elementary section.

The inclement weather and occasional power interruptions brought about by tropical storm "Caloy" delayed the results of some games and consequently the final tally of points, but there was no dislodging NCR from its pedestal.

Victories in basketball, girls' volleyball, boys' swimming and baseball helped cement NCR's domination of the secondary division where it prevailed over Western Visayas and Calabarzon.

The WV delegation topped girls' athletics and finished with 232 points while Calabarzon salvaged third with 226.5 mainly through its strong showing in girls' swimming, table tennis and boys' volleyball.

Rounding up the top 10 were Central Visayas (132), Central Luzon (108), Davao Region (55.5), Bicol Region (55), Cotabato Region (53), Zamboanga Peninsula (52) and Northern Mindanao (41).

In the medal tally handled by WorldTech Resources Institute, NCR reigned supreme overall with 65 golds, 55 silvers and 35 bronzes. This tally, released at 2 p.m., did not include the results of team sports.

Calabarzon, the stronger half of traditional Palaro powerhouse Southern Tagalog which was split into two regions three years ago, was a far second with a 38-31-39 gold-silver-bronze count. Third was Western Visayas with 28-34-35, Central Visayas fourth with 13-16-21 and Northern Mindanao fifth with 12-10-8.

Host Bicol Region wound up sixth with 9-9-21 followed by Central Luzon (7-11-12), Davao Peninsula (7-9-9), Cotabato Region (7-8-9), and Mimaropa, the other Southern Tagalog team (7-4-8).

Borgy Hermida unloaded 17 points to power NCR to a 57-53 triumph over Western Visayas for the secondary basketball crown, which was worth 25 points.

Represented by a selection from University of Santo Tomas, Letran, San Beda and San Sebastian, NCR trailed 42-45, in the final six minutes before Hermida sparked a 13-0 blast for a 55-45 lead.

Jared Chien unloaded 20 points for the WV five made up of the core of the Iloilo Chinese Commercial College squad.

The elementary division became almost an exclusive preserve of the Big City athletes as they cornered majority of the gold medals in boys' and girls' swimming, rhythmic and artistic gymnastics, softball and taekwondo.

Defending champion Calabarzon scored heavily in girls' and boys' athletics and girls' volleyball but could only pile up 216.5 points for second place. Western Visayas, which ruled softball and also shone in girls' athletics, was third with 140.

Beermen tame Tigers, gain semis

SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION—THE SAN Miguel Beermen slipped past the skidding Coca-Cola Tigers, 95-92, last night and secured the first outright semifinal berth in the Gran Matador-PBA Philippine Cup before a packed crowd at the Pacoy Ortega gym here.

Dorian Peña scattered 22 points and Danny Seigle added 21 as they joined hands with Danny Ildefonso in a crucial San Miguel run in the homestretch that broke up the tight contest.

With the score at 78-all, the three combined to give the Beermen an 85-82 lead with 1:55 remaining, which San Miguel preserved to the end.

It was the 11th win in 14 outings for the Beermen, who are returning to the Final Four after being booted out early in the playoffs of the 2005-06 Fiesta Conference.

The Beermen also remained perfect on the road this conference after beating the Red Bull Barakos in Urdaneta City last March 25, 95-90.

Meanwhile, Purefoods gets a chance to join San Miguel when it guns for the second outright semis berth against Red Bull at 6:30 p.m. at the Ynares Center today.

Alaska takes on Sta. Lucia in the first game at 4:10 p.m. hoping to boost their respective quarterfinal bids.

The Tigers, the hottest squad early in the series, lost for the fifth straight time and fell to 6-7. But they gave the Beermen a good fight.

Trailing by as many as 13, they clawed their way back as Johnny Abarrientos, Dale Singson and Ali Peek strung up seven straight points to tie the game at 60 late in the third quarter.

It was touch and go from there with the

GAMES TODAY *(Ynares Center)*
4:10 p.m.—Alaska vs Sta. Lucia
6:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Purefoods

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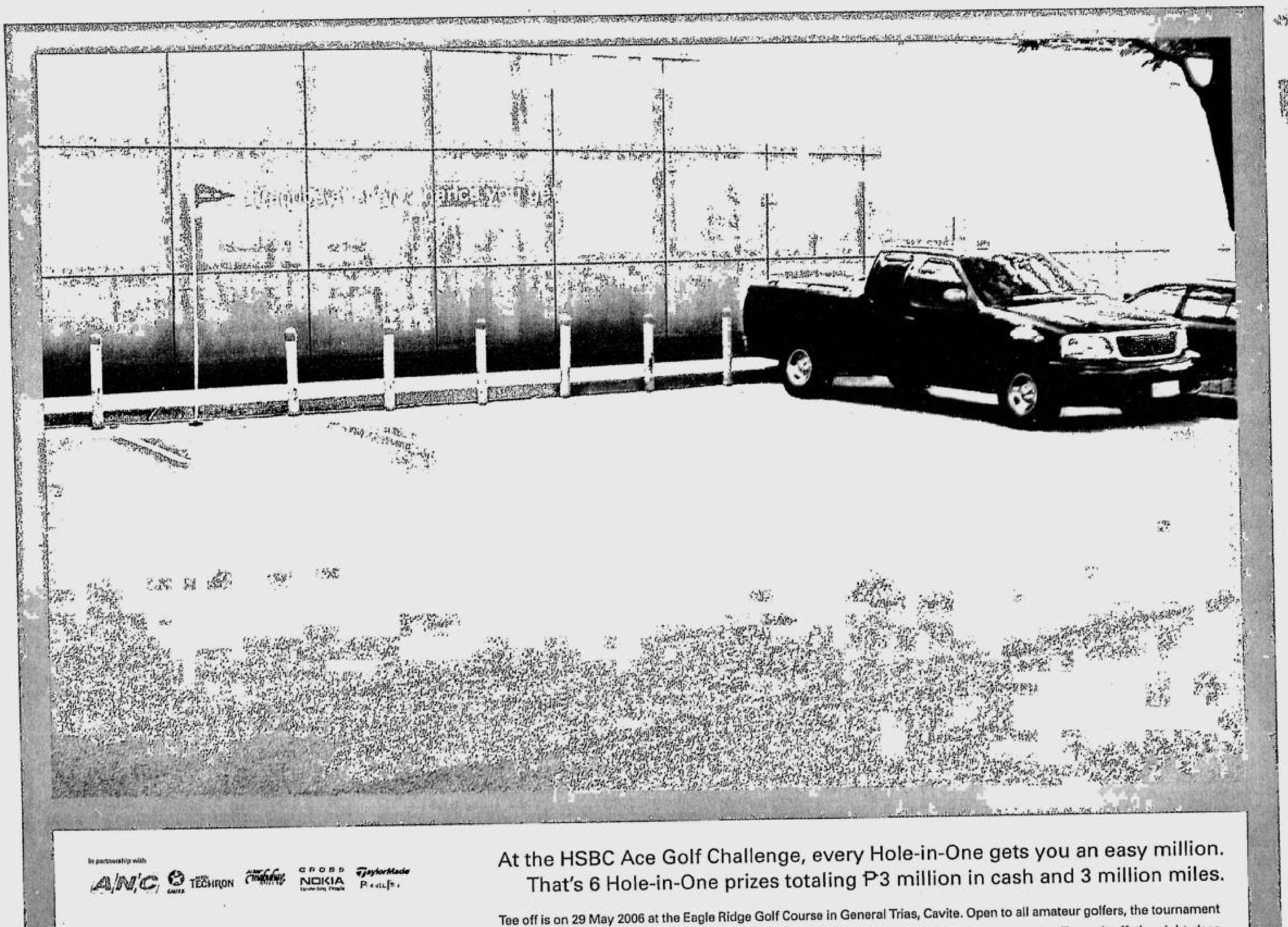

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Cossack Riders grab team lead

SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION—SKIPPER RENATO Sambrano and Irish Valenzuela struck hard yesterday, boosting Cossack Vodka to the team lead after Stage 2 of the Tour Pilipinas Tanduay Padyak Pinoy 2006.

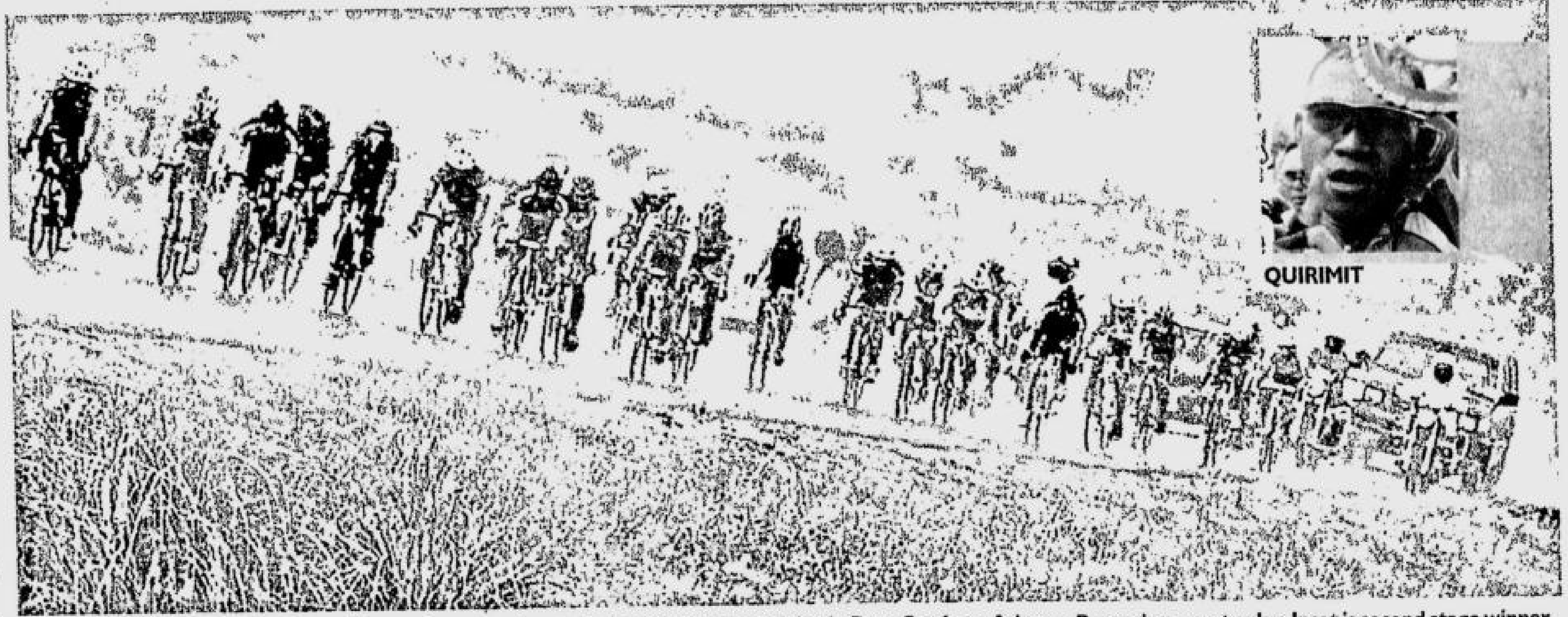
Sambrano and Valenzuela were in the first group that crossed the finish at the town plaza here and a third member, Michael Reyes, led the second wave of riders that checked in 1 minute and 16 seconds behind lap winner Arnel Quirimit.

The trio formed a huge part of the Cossack Riders' day-best time of 17 hours, 51 minutes and 14.972 seconds as they wrested the overall lead coming from seventh spot at the start of the day.

Cool Pap, which also had two riders arriving in the first group, climbed to second spot, just slightly over five minutes behind.

"*Maganda ang pinakita ng mga bata,*" Cossack coach Renato Dolosa said. "*Pero sinabi ko sa kanila na bukas ang umpisa ng hirap nitong karera na ito.*"

One Shot Wonder, the leader after Stage 1, now trails the leader by 6 minutes and 39.890 seconds, while the fourth placed Air21 squad is 7:21.078 behind.


QUIRIMIT

MAIN pack of cyclists pedal through heavy downpour brought about by typhoon Caloy in Brgy. San Jose, Asingan, Pangasinan, yesterday. Inset is second stage winner Arnel Quirimit.
BOY CABRIDO

Quirimit snares 2nd stage; Obosa keeps yellow jersey

By Musong R. Castillo

SAN FERNANDO, LA UNION—SO MUCH FOR THE BIGGEST PIECE OF TOUR PILIPinas history being written this year.

Defending champion Warren Davadilla gave it a go, fell short then conceded yesterday that a third championship in the annual summer spectacle will not be achieved just two stages and slightly over 300 kilometers into the Tanduay Padyak Pinoy 2006.

"*Pumasok lang sa* Top 10, *maganda na* (To make it to the Top 10 is good enough)," said Davadilla, adding that he was not in shape this year to keep pace with the Tour's big guns.

Former champ Arnel Quirimit, one of the feared riders in the field, immediately served notice he was ready to succeed Davadilla by ruling the 190-kilometer second stage from Cabanatuan to here.

The 31-year-old Quirimit, the 2003 winner, clocked 4 hours, 26 minutes and 50 seconds, nosing out Eric Feliciano and Santy Barnachea for lap honors.

The yellow jersey of overall leadership stayed with first-lap winner Ericson Obosa despite taking a spill along with Irish Valenzuela less than two kilometers to the finish line while riding with the lead pack.

Under a new international rule on spills and untoward incidents, Obosa and Valenzuela were given the same lap time as Quirimit and company although Ericson didn't have encouraging words to say as far as the rest of his campaign is concerned.

Obosa will be taking a 10-second advantage over Barnachea with an overall time of 7 hours, 25 minutes and 2 seconds heading into the first punishing stage today.

Stage 3 will take the still intact field of 80 riders to Baguio first through Naguillian and then through Marcos Highway, a couple of lung-busting climbs that will surely shake up the standings.

"*Ipapahiram ko muna sa kanila* (I will lend the yellow jersey to someone else)," Obosa said when asked of his chances of keeping the yellow jersey.

"*Natural akong* sprinter. *Wala akong ahon* (I am a natural sprinter. I don't have mountain-climbing skills)," added the 26-year-old Obosa, who was shaken by the spill that also gave him gashes in the right elbow, shoulder and knee.

Harvey Sicam, nephew of cycling great Jacinto and third in the opening stage on Friday, fell 1 minute and 34 seconds off the overall pace after leading a five-man second group that checked in 1:16 behind Quirimit.

Davadilla brought up the rear of the Sicam group and now trails by 3 minutes and 13 seconds in ninth spot from 1:38 before the start of the day.

Also the champion in 1998, Davadilla said he also tried to attack in the first lap in Angat, Bulacan, but gave it up because he wasn't up to the challenge.

Davadilla, who actually made another run yesterday but faded when the chase group hit Bauang town, some 35 kilometers to the finish, is also bidding to become only the fourth man to win this event back-to-back after Jacinto Sicam, Joe Sumalde and Novo Ecijano Carlo Guieb.

Meanwhile, Quirimit came to the press tent for the customary interview all pumped up, saying he got the push from the people who lined up the streets of his hometown Pozzorubio in Pangasinan.

Quirimit still trails Obosa by 13 minutes 50 seconds but experts expect him to move up into solid contention at the end of the Baguio lap.

STAGE 2 RESULTS

STAGE 2 INDIVIDUAL

Did Not Finish: 0

1. A. Quirimit (Elixir Sports), 4 hours, 26 minutes, 50 seconds
2. F. Feliciano (Air21), same time
3. S. Barnachea (Sunbolt), same time
4. A. Asuncion (Cool Pap), same time
5. A. Espino (Cool Pap), same tim e
6. R. Sambrano (Cossack Vodka), same time
7. I. Valenzuela (Cossack Vodka), same time
8. E. Obosa (Inca), same time
9. M. Reyes (Cossack Vodka), 4:28:06
10. A. Calpito (Inca), same time
11. T. Martinez (Red Bull), same time
12. H. Sicam (Elixir Sports), same time
13. W. Davadilla (Mail & More), same time
14. N. Guanzon (Cool Pap), 4:29:28
15. E. Quinones (Go21), same time

STAGE 2 Overall Individal

1. E. Obosa (Inca), 7:25:02
2. S. Barnachea (Sunbolt), 7:25:13
3. H. Sicam (Elixir Sports), 7:26:36
4. F. Feliciano (Air21), 7:26:54
5. A. Asuncion (Cool Pap), 7:26:57
6. I. Valenzuela (Cossack Vodka), 7:27:54
7. R. Sambrano (Cossack Vodka), 7:27:56
8. W. Calosa (One Shot Wonder), 7:28:05
9. W. Davadilla (Mail & More), 7:28:16
10. M. Reyes (Cossack Vodka), 7:29:12
11. T. Martinez (Red Bull), same time
12. N. Guanzon (Cool Pap), 7:30:34
13. E. Quinones (Go21), same time
14. O. Rendole (Inca), 7:31:19
15. A. Espino (Cool Pap), 7:32:07

STAGE2 TEAM RESULTS

PL TEAM TIMED MEMBERS

1. Cossack Vodka, 17 hours 51:14.972 seconds
2. Cool Pap, 17:56:41.223
3. Elixir Sports, 17:57:46.261
4. Air21, 18:07:23.911
5. Go21, 18:10:07.802

STAGE 2 OVERALL TEAM STANDINGS

PL TEAM TIMED DEFICIT

1. Cossack Vodka, 30 hours 03:28.915 seconds
2. Cool Pap, 30:08:29.723
3. One Shot Wonder, 30:10:08.806
4. Air21, 30:10:49.993
5. Elixir Sports, 30:17:45.102

Laro ng Masa revival slated

THE REVIVAL OF "LARO NG MASA," A SOFTball program that has produced national players will be the main focus of newly elected Amateur Softball Association-Philippines president Mario Raymundo and his board.

Raymundo vowed to continue the program during Friday's SCOOP weekly session at the Kamayan Restaurant-Padre Faura in Ermita.

"It has proven to be a very effective program as far as identifying talents from the provinces who have been developed to represent the country in international competitions," Raymundo said.

"Proof of the program's effectiveness is the fact that products of the program still dominate the Blu Boys' and the Blu Girls' lineups," added Raymundo, who regained his post during an election held Thursday night.

Raymundo, who came to the session with executive vice president Robert Evangelista, added he would work for the expansion of the present ASA-Asia setup to include countries in the Pacific basin as Guam, Hawaii, Western US, Western Canada and Western Mexico, to mention a few.

AdU gains semis

ADAMSON REGAINED ITS WINNING WAYS and advanced to the semifinal round while dampening Ateneo's chances as it fashioned out a 25-20, 25-13, 25-23 victory yesterday in the Shakey's V-League at the Blue Eagle gym.

The Lady Falcons, whose three-game win run was halted by Far Eastern U last week, proved steadier in the third set as Kristine Ann Dave and Cherry Macatangay delivered the team's last two points that shattered a 23-23 deadlock and completed their straight-set victory.

The win was Adamson's fourth in five games as it joined fancied De La Salle in the semifinals.

The Lady Archers, eyeing a third straight championship in the tournament backed by Accel, Mikasa, ABC-5 and ABC Sports, are unbeaten in five games.

The setback was Ateneo's fourth against a lone victory, putting the host in a must-win situation in its last two games.

SPORTSWATCH

Fistorama features 2 bouts

FISTORAMA FEATURES THIS AFTERNOON THE BOUTS BETWEEN FEATHERweights Rodel Bongcato and Genesis Mabalot and super flyweights Javier Malulan and Ricky Manatad. The fights were recently held in La Trinidad, Benguet. Fistorama is shown twice weekly though The Filipino Channel/Pinoy Central TV and RPN-9 starting at 3:30 p.m. Golf Power Plus airs at 3 p.m. featuring the 8th Samsung Philippine International Junior Golf Championships.

Lambda Rho Beta Cup tomorrow

THE SAN BEDA LAW GOLF CLUB, INC. ANNOUNCED THAT IT IS STAGING THE Lambda Rho Beta Cup at the Valley Golf and Country Club South Course tomorrow at 7 a.m. Proceeds of the fund-raising event would benefit the San Beda Legal Aid Bureau headed by lawyer Rocky Delson, the various activities of the Lambda Rho Beta Fraternity and the San Beda Law Golf Club, Inc. Tournament director lawyer Boni Tacardon reminded members and participants to wear red or white.

Batang X-Tra Challenge tenpin set

CASH PRIZES ARE AT STAKE IN THE BATANG X-TRA CHALLENGE, A BOWling fellowship among the new crop of bowlers, slated June 12 at the Sta. Lucia East Bowling Center in Cainta. Players seeing action in the tournament, which fires off at 2 p.m., will play two blocks of three games each to determine the top finishers. The top three bowlers in each of the two blocks will win P1,200, P600 and P300, respectively. The top-scoring bowler gets P2,400. Lane fee is P1,200.

Proline Grip-Lok bag draws praise

THE 'GRIP-LOK' IS TO GOLF BAGS AS TITANIUM IS FOR GOLF DRIVERS. SEAsoned executive golfer Melchor Dizon, executive vice president of Mitsubishi Motors Phils. Corp., gave this high praise to Proline's golf bag which boasts the Grip-Lok technology, a unique locking system that keeps clubs firmly locked in place while walking through the greens or traveling to your next golf course.

GCAP 5-cocker Wednesday

ANOTHER EDITION OF THE GENTLEMEN COCKERS ASSOCIATION OF THE Philippines (GCAP) 5-cock derby series unfolds on Wednesday at the San Juan Coliseum with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 as sponsor. All GCAP derbies offer 65 to 70 fights per outing. LCC Leonard of Louie Cua topped the GCAP 5-cocker last May 3 after posting five victories in as many fights. Meanwhile, another special 5-cock derby is scheduled at SJC on May 20 with Tony Antonio as host. Submission of entries is set on Friday from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m.

National Bullstag Derby at Araneta

THE ELIMINATION ROUND OF THIS YEAR'S NFGB NATIONAL 8-BULLSTAG DERby shifts to the Araneta Coliseum beginning on Tuesday with more than 80 fights on tap. So far, 88 entries were registered in regional qualifiers held in Ilocos Norte, Iloilo, Davao and Zamboanga. Ricoy Palmares Jr., president of the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders said that over 200 entries are expected. For inquiries, call 911-2928, 911-3101 or 0917-4476707 (Homer Salgado).

SJC 4-cock submission of weights

TODAY WILL BE THE SUBMISSION OF ENTRIES TO SAN JUAN COLISEUM'S 4-cock derby. Entries will be accepted from 2 p.m. to 9 p.m. Sponsor is Sagupaan Complexor 3000. To be hosted by veteran llamador Renato Shio and Ariel Garovillo, the derby starts at 5 p.m. tomorrow with more than 70 matches expected.

Romero buried today

ARISTOTLE M. ROMERO, BROTHER-IN-LAW OF JOURNAL GROUP OF PUBLICAtions editor in chief Gus B. Villanueva, died last Tuesday at the Heart Center in Quezon City. He was 55. He is survived by wife, Lourdes Daisy, sisters Arlyne, Annabelle, Adorable, Audrey and Andra, brother Antonio III, brother-in-law Jun Luz, sisters-in-law Grace Castillo and Jeanna and Ramon and Rainer Ples. Interment is set today at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina after the 8 a.m. Mass at Loyola (Guadalupe).

VENCER John Suba (130) holds on to the lead against Von Medrano.

La Salle-Ateneo Golf Classic up tomorrow

WITH THE WEATHER EXPECTED to improve after a stormy weekend due to typhoon Caloy, it's all systems go for the La Salle-Ateneo Golf Classic tomorrow and Tuesday at the north and south courses of the Canlubang Golf and Country Club in Laguna.

At least 350 alumni and students of both schools as well as affiliates are joining the tournament being supported by PLDT and Smart Communications.

Playing today are those in Class B (handicaps 10.8-16.4) and Open (no handicaps) at the south course and Class D (23.6 and up) and ladies at the north. On Tuesday, it will be the turn of the entries in championship (0 to 3.8) and Class A (3.9-10.7) at the north and Class C (16.5-23.5) and Seniors at the south.

Other sponsors of the tourney featuring individual and team competitions are ABS-CBN, Citisec Online, Consolidated Distillers/Carlos Rossi, Directories Phils. Corp., ICAP Phils., Inc., Filpride Resources, Inc., Nation Petroleum Corp. and Pisanti which is hosting the fun games. Turf Company is staking a Club Car as a hole-in-one prize.

Part of the proceeds of the event has been used to provide a four-year scholarship in each university to golfing talents from the junior ranks.

After winning last year to earn bragging right, La Salle will be bidding to wrap up its duel with Ateneo for the PLDT-Smart Trophy in what has become a best-of-three affair. Two years ago, La Salle bagged permanent possession of the Valdes Trophy by winning three years in a row.

Walk-ins will be entertained on a first-come, first-served basis.

JeT Racing Kids prevail

THE JET RACING KIDS COMES OF age following their impressive feats in the second leg of the 2006 Shell-Cali Superkarting Series recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

The JeT racers posted three victories, including a 1-2-3 finish in the Mini ROK division.

Young Javi Benitez delivered the first champion trophy following his remarkable comeback from sixth place to a thrilling triumph in the Junior ROK division.

Paolo Gonzales provided the second victory for JeT Racing Team, sponsored by Bingo Bonanza Corp., Henry Sy, Jr. of SM companies and Willy Ocier of Pacific Online Systems Corp. and Belle Corp. Industria, as he led the 1-2-3 finish in the Mini ROK division together with Franco Reyes and Vencer John Suba.

Suba also captured the Formula SL crown, taking all three heats.

Montinola, Blanco split Group 3 honors in PTCC

NEWCOMERS NICO MONTINOLA and Pacho Blanco of Velocity Motors bested the veterans as they split Group 3 division honors in the kickoff leg of the San Mig Coffee-Petron Blaze Cup Philippine Touring Car Championship recently at the Batangas Racing Circuit.

Montinola, a TV executive who bagged the Run-What-You-Brung title last year, topped the morning race over veteran Peewee Mendiola of Big Chill Racing and former Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli of Velocity Motors.

He clocked 22.38.096, checking in 4.6 seconds ahead of Mendiola in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines.

Guidicelli, a first timer in Touring Cars, struggled mastering his Honda Civic Lxi after a blown tire in practice Friday afternoon left him with very limited time on the track. But he managed to snatch third place with a time of 22:52.542

JP Carino of Bosch-Intelco and Pacho Blanco wound up fourth and fifth, respectively.

PACHO Blanco wins despite a battered car.

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Bear Cat (4), Iron Chef (1), Bigtime Bonjing (3)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Gonfalon Story (4), Latina (2), Refreshing (6), Take Ten (5)
Race 3—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Iron Heart (3), Armadalo (4), Don't Tell Ella (5), Tout Est Grace (9), Alexis Magic (2)
Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Golden Number (6), Ilocs Pride (5), Gone With The Wind (1), Smokin' Red (2)
Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Yoshiwara (9), Terminator (3), Silver Place (2), Sugar Bay (4), King Alphun (1)
Race 6—(Trifecta)—Real Spicy (5), Speed Advantage (2), Chariot Of Fire (6)
Race 7—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Brittney's Magic (2), Valenta (5), Scarlet Velvet (4), Friendly Fire (8), Ravishing Ruffy (1), Best In Class (3)
Race 8—Last Harm (4), Movahead (3)
Race 9—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Love And Money (1), Heart Of The Wind (7), Danielle's Angel (8), Mandalay Bay (5), St. Emilion (3), Naman Naman/Pastrit (2)
Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—War Alert (5), Ballet Danseuse/Floral Arch (1), Feat Reason (6), The Bons Daughter (3)
Race 11—(Qrt/Tri)—Even Now (7), Kai Maki (3), Triple Threat (4), Lydia's Magic (5)
Race 12—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Valid Hazm (6), American Inggo (7), Dixie Dash (4), Red Strom (3), Apex (1)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—War Hero (7), Magic Danor (3), Nico's Incharge (4), Princess Dancer (10), Romario (8), Extreme Romance (1)

Gatlin fastest man on earth

JUSTIN Gatlin en route to a record-breaking 9.76 seconds in the 100 meters. REUTERS

DOHA—AMERICA'S JUSTIN GATLIN, THE Olympic and world champion, set a new 100 meter world record at the Qatar Grand Prix on Friday with a time of 9.76 seconds and then pledged to smash the record again.

Gatlin bettered the old mark of 9.77sec held by Jamaica's Asafa Powell which was set in Athens in June last year.

"I know that I can go quicker," said the 24-year-old, who clocked 9.85sec in the semifinal, which was the best time this year before the blistering finale.

"If I continue to stay focussed on my work I can do 9.72, 9.73. But now I can say I am the fastest man on earth."

Gatlin stayed cool on the blocks and shrugged off a false start and was overjoyed at his victory.

"I am very happy to have broken the world record," said Gatlin.

"I knew it was coming. This is my third time in Doha and it has proved to be third time lucky.

"I am the best of the best because I am the Olympic champion and the world champion. I have kept my word. My acceleration out there today was phenomenal." Gatlin said he never doubted that he would one day be the fastest man on earth.

"Everyone was waiting for me to do it, I would say since 2002, but I was very young. However, I have always been a competitor.

"This year, in the big championships, I decided to be more aggressive and concentrate more on this time." Nigeria's Olusoji Fasuba (9.84sec) took second place for a new African record while America's Shawn Crawford (10.08), the Olympic 200 meters champion, was third in Friday's race.

The record sets up what could be a fascinating season of sprinting.

Gatlin announced his intentions in his first race of the campaign when he clocked 9.95sec in Osaka in Japan.

He and Powell are due to meet at the Gateshead Grand Prix in England on June 11. Their last meeting was in London last July when Gatlin cruised to victory as Powell pulled up with a groin injury. *AFP*

Manaudou sinks 400m free mark

LOS ANGELES—JANET EVANS, WHO OWNS the oldest world record in women's swimming, applauded France's Laure Manaudou on Friday for shattering her 400 meter freestyle world record, what was the second-oldest mark.

Manaudou won at the French Championships on Friday in 4 minutes, 3.03 seconds to break the mark of 4:03.88 set by the American on Sept. 22, 1988 at the Seoul Olympics.

"I want to congratulate Laure on a fantastic swim," Evans said. "It was an honor to have held the 400m freestyle world record for 18 years.

"Now that I'm 34 years old, married and pregnant with my first child, I appreciate the accomplishments of great athletes such as Laure even more." Evans still owns world records in the 800m and 1,500m freestyles. Her 1,500m free mark set on March 26, 1988, in Orlando, Florida, is the oldest in women's swimming.

"My goal was always to make swimming a sport that was appreciated and supported globally. I am very excited that a swimmer from any country in the world can break a world record.

"I again congratulate Laure and look forward to personally doing the same at World Championships in Melbourne in 2007." *AFP*

Sorenstam misses cut; Webb keeps 1-shot lead

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA—Australian Hall of Famer Karrie Webb maintained her one-shot lead at the LPGA Michelob Ultra Open on Friday, but now she has red-hot Cristie Kerr snapping at her heels.

SORENSTAM

Webb, who has recovered nicely from a poor start to the 2006 campaign, fired a 3-under 68 for a halfway total of 8-under 134 in the 2.2 million-dollar tournament.

Kerr, coming off a win at the Franklin American Mortgage Championship last week, carded a 66 for 135.

Swedish superstar Annika Sorenstam sensationally failed to make the cut—ending a streak of 68 consecutive LPGA cuts made that dated back to the 2002 women's British Open.

"It's mostly disappointing," said Sorenstam, who has one win this season and four top-six finishes in five events. "I feel like I'm playing well. I've practiced all week and just this year is not really going anywhere at all. I have to keep on grinding and keep on going. That's really all I can do." Webb's effort included four birdies and just one bogey.

"I probably hit the ball better today than I did yesterday," said Webb, who played alongside Kerr.

Filipino Jennifer Rosales shot another 70 and landed 6 shots off the pace at 140. *AFP*

FG Cup kicks off at SLLP

CARMONA, CAVITE—Real Spicy and Speed Advantage slug it out again today with the biggest stakes on the line in the 11th running of the First Gentleman Silver Cup at the San Lazaro Leisure Park here.

The P1.75 million race, spread over the punishing 2,000-meter distance, will be the culmination of what has been a classic and heated head-to-head duel between the two outstanding chargers dating back to last year.

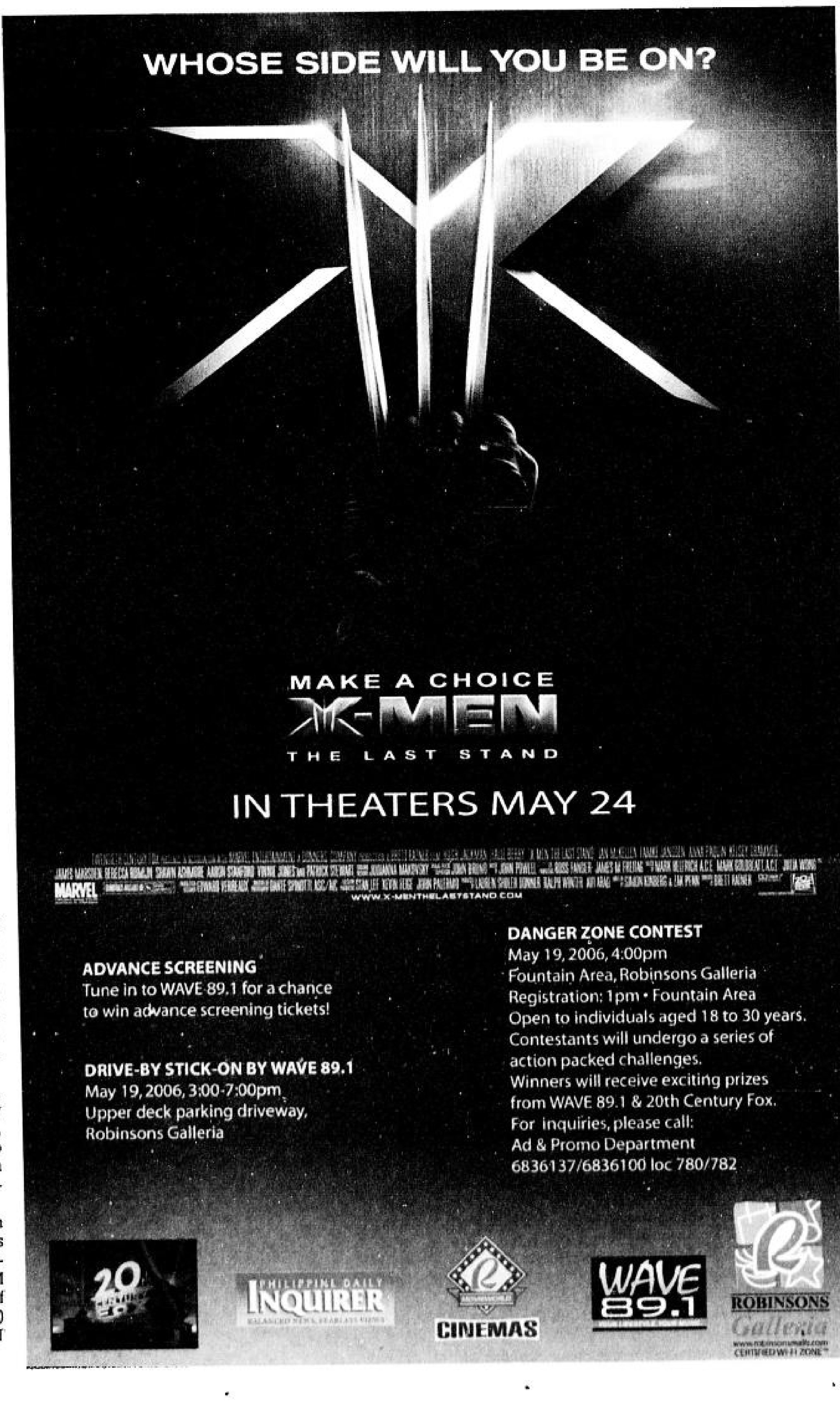
Real Spicy, the handsome chestnut horse coming from the Hermie Esguerra stables, sets out as the logical first pick, having shown more than great skill in humbling the massive Speed Advantage the last time out.

"He ran with a lot of heart the last time out," Esguerra said, referring to the way Real Spicy ran down the field with a late burst of speed in the H-Pinoy Cup close to a month ago.

Real Spicy, a 4-year-old son of Real Quiet out of Spicy Tale who won the Triple Crown's third leg last year, looked like a goner in that race until first time partner Louie Balboa worked him up furiously for the win.

Speed Advantage, who will be ridden by Fernando Raquel, could be called on to set the pace today in the absence of the noted speedballs.

The other entries in the race that offers P1.1 million to the winner are Stallone (BM Yamzon), Chariot of Fire (RC Baldonido) and Wind Runner (JT Zarate).



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Titans, Jewels subdue rivals

By Jasmine W. Payo

FINISHING STRONG WAS NO longer an issue for the league newcomers.

Earlier criticized for their end-game meltdowns, the TeleTech Titans built a sizable lead and shocked the seasoned Rain or Shine, 90-76, in the PBL Unity Cup yesterday at the Olivarez Sports Center in Paranaque City.

"I had to squeeze out whatever we have," said Titans coach Jerry Codinera. "(The Elasto Painters) are so tall, we just had to outwork them."

Ariel Capus shot a team-high 17 points to lead the Titans to their first back-to-back victories.

Dondon Villamin, who averaged only four markers, turned out to be a surprise presence on the floor as he poured in 11 of his 15 points in the second half.

The huge upset took the spotlight even as the Montana Jewels foiled the Toyota Otis Sparks' bid for an outright semifinal berth with a 69-63 victory.

GAMES TODAY *(Olivarez Sports Center)*
2 p.m.—Harbour vs Granny Goose
4 p.m.—Hapee-PCU vs Magnolia

The Jewels improved to 9-4, the same card as the Sparks.

The Painters skidded to their third straight loss for a 7-5 slate.

The scores:

First Game

TELETECH 90—Capus 17, Doruelo 16, Villamin 15, Mercado 13, Tang 11, Estrada 10, Latoreno 6, Gelig 2, Sierra 0, Mendoza 0, Tolentino 0, Magdadaro 0.

RAIN OR SHINE 76—Tangkay 25, Malabanan 11, Tan 11, Cabatu 8, Sta. Maria 7, Ortiguerra 6, Eman 4, Reyes 4, Orbeta 0, Sagad 0, Urra 0.

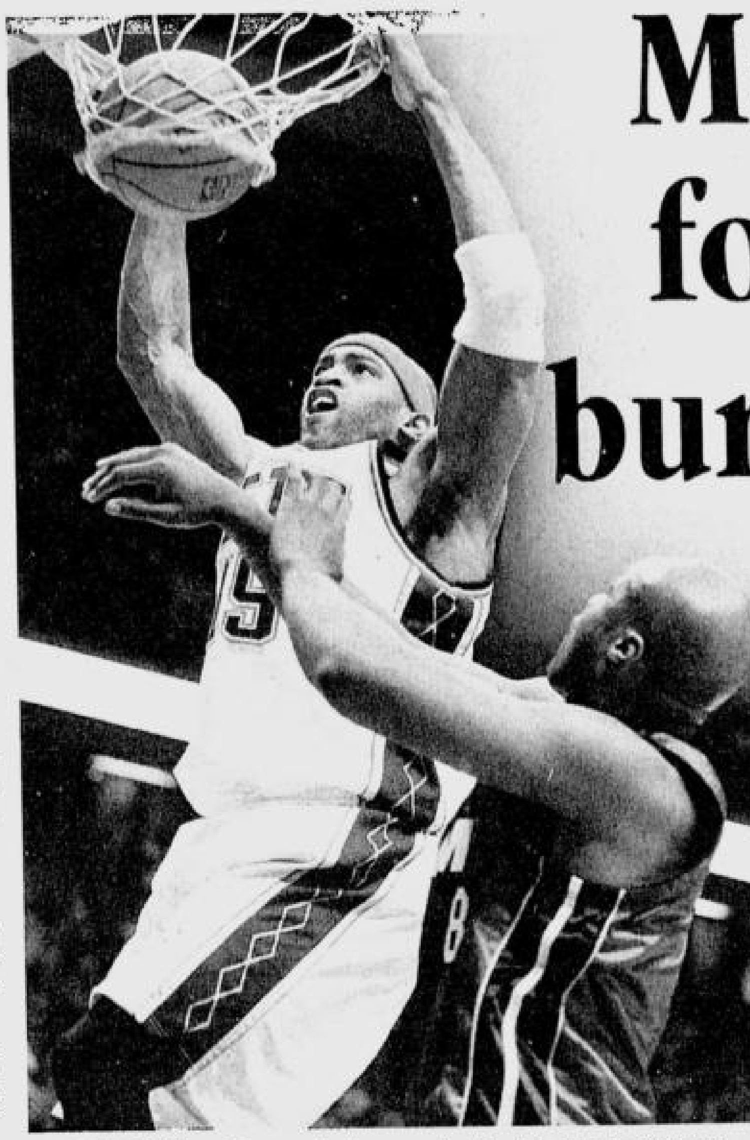
Quarters: 17-23, 46-38, 61-56, 90-76

Second Game

MONTAÑA 69—Bono 15, Compton 12, Magpayo 10, Juntilla 8, Baguion 6, Dela Cuesta 6, Espiritu 4, Vergara 4, Rodriguez 4, Guerrero 0.

TOYOTA OTIS 63—Oreta 11, Rodriguez 10, Aban 10, Devance 6, Coronel 6, Daa 4, Aldave 3, Caslo 3, Alcaraz 2, Fajardo 2, Larong 0, Bautista 0, Cabahug 0.

Quarters: 27-18, 42-31, 54-49, 69-63



THE NETS' Vince Carter dunks over the Heat's Antoine Walker. AFP

Marion shines for Suns; Heat burn Nets down

NEW YORK—INSPIRED BY SHAWN MARION'S 32 points and 19 rebounds, the Phoenix Suns held off the Los Angeles Clippers, 94-91, in Game Three of their Western Conference semifinal series at the Staples Center on Friday.

Tim Thomas added 19 points and 14 rebounds for the Suns, who take a 2-1 lead in the best-of-seven series ahead of Game Four in Los Angeles on Sunday.

In the day's other playoff game, Dwyane Wade had 30 points, 10 assists and seven rebounds as the Miami Heat beat the New Jersey Nets, 103-92, in East Rutherford.

Miami now leads that best-of-seven Eastern Conference series 2-1, with Game Four in New Jersey on Sunday.

Raja Bell added 14 points for the Suns, while Steve Nash had an off-night in scoring 12 points but added 10 assists and made a key basket with less than four seconds remaining to give the Suns a three-point lead.

Phoenix coach Mike D'Antoni was relieved to grab the series lead despite the fact his team shot just 37 percent.

"We ground it out," D'Antoni told reporters.

"Shawn Marion has a huge night... Steve (Nash) hits the big shot and we win a game decided by three points or less. We were due."

Phoenix came into the game with an 0-8 record in games deciding by three points or less this season.

Elton Brand led Los Angeles with 20 points, nine rebounds and eight assists, while Vladimir Radmanovic added 18 points for the Clippers, but missed a potential game-tying three-pointer at the buzzer.

Los Angeles coach Mike Dunleavy said his team just did not take advantage of its scoring opportunities.

"We didn't finish," he said.

"They (the Suns) keep surprising us. We had a lot of easy shots that didn't go in and they took advantage of that." *Reuters*

SOLAR Sports will air the San Antonio-Dallas tussle at 10:30 a.m. with a replay at 7 p.m. The San Antonio-Dallas encounter will be aired over RPN-9 at 10:30 a.m. The clash between Detroit and Cleveland will be shown at 9 p.m.

Valencia dribblers thwart Pangasinan

DAGUPAN CITY—VALENCIA Golden Harvest ended its northern swing on a winning note by beating Pangasinan Hundred Islands, 75-69, Friday night in the 2006 Guerrero Brandy-NBC national basketball championship at the People's Astrodome here.

Dino Cabili delivered 26 points, seven rebounds, three steals and two assists as Mayor Jose Galario Jr.'s Valencia cagers ended a five-game skid to improve to 3-5 in the southern division.

The setback was the fifth in seven games for the Pangasinenses in the tourney sponsored by Panasonic, Sulpicio Lines, Nature's Spring Mineral Water, Spring Cooking Oil, Regent Foods, Firefly Lightings, Molten and Prime Channel.

Valencia lost the last three of its four-game northern series, but its assistant coach, Rico Ocho, felt the win over Pangasinan would wake up his boys.

Marlon Yambao and Romer Menor rallied Pangasinan within striking distance, 69-71, with 39 seconds left. But Randy Lopez muffed a three-point attempt in the ensuing play, and then Cabili scored Valencia's last four points from the stripe.

First Philippine
Holdings Corporation

NOTICE OF RE-SETTING OF THE ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS MEETING

TO ALL STOCKHOLDERS:

Please take notice that the Annual Stockholders Meeting of First Philippine Holdings Corporation has been reset from May 15, 2006 to June 14, 2006 at 3:00 p.m. at the Meralco Theater, Lopez Building, Ortigas Ave., Pasig City.

The Agenda of the meeting are as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Proof of Required Notice
3. Determination of Quorum
4. Approval of the Minutes of the June 8, 2005 Stockholders Meeting
5. Reports of the Chairman & the President
6. Approval/Ratification of the December 31, 2005 Reports and the Audited Financial Statements
7. Ratification of the Acts of the Board, of the Executive Committee and of Management
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditors
10. Other Matters
11. Adjournment

The deadline for submission of proxy is June 6, 2006. For your convenience in registering your attendance, please present some form of identification, such as passport, driver's license, or company I.D. Registration will start at 2:00 p.m.

(Sgd.) ENRIQUE I. QUIASON
Corporate Secretary

(PDI – May 14, 2006)

Republika ng Pilipinas
Republic of the Philippines
KAGAWARAN NG EDUKASYON
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
PROCUREMENT SERVICE
Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City
Telefax: 636-65-42
Direct Line 636-65-43
Trunk Line 632-13-61 local 2115
Website http://www.deped.gov.ph

DepED

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for Supply and Delivery of the following:

Package	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Pre-Bid Conference	Bid Submission deadline Opening of Bids	Price of Bidding Documents (non-refundable)	Venue	End user
Development and Mass Production of Video Lessons and User's Guide in Second Year Mathematics (Intermediate Algebra) in Compact Discs	Php 2,100,000.00	May 22, 2006, 10:00 A.M	June 6, 2006, 10:00 A.M	Php1,000.00	Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal 1 Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Ave., Pasig City	Bureau of Secondary Education (BSE)

Bids received that exceed the ABC shall be rejected.

The Bidding Documents in Compact Disc (CD) or hard copy shall be available at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Service, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting May 15, 2006 upon payment in cash of the non-refundable fee indicated above.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no. 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) Atty. CAMILO MIGUEL M. MONTESA
Assistant Secretary and BAC Chairperson

(PDI – May 14 & 21, 2006)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Supply of Services thru outsourcing of the following positions: Lot 1 – Sixteen (16) General Clerks and Two (2) Data Encoders Lot 2 – One (1) Data Analyst Lot 3 – One (1) Professional Mechanical Engineer Lot 4 – One hundred seventy (170) Plant Workers
Approved Budget for the Contract	Lot 1 – P10,000/month or P1,080,000.00 Lot 2 – P17,000.00/month or P204,000.00 Lot 3 – P35,000.00/month or P140,000.00 Lot 4 – P10,675.35/month or P10,888,857.00
Contract Duration	Per BSP Terms of Reference

Prospective bidders should have undertaken similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	15 May -- 25 May 2006 (up to 2:00PM)
2. Pre-bid Conference	26 May 2006, 3:00PM
3. Opening of Bids	13 June 2006, 2:00PM
4. Bid Evaluation	)These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods
5. Post-qualification	)allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A
6. Notice of Award	) of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount equivalent to 0.05% of the ABC for each lot or a minimum of P500.00 but not to exceed P50,000.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI – May 14, 2006)

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
RFA (492-06-008)

An international organization is soliciting applications from U.S. or non-U.S. non-profit or for-profit nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), public international organizations (PIO or IO), and other qualified non-USG organizations to assist appropriate Government of the Philippines (GRP) agencies and local government units in strengthening systems, commitment and support for essential health services such as family planning, maternal and child health, tuberculosis and other infectious diseases, which will help the Regional Government, local governments and the communities in the ARMM Region to improve their health status in a sustainable way.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
RFA (492-06-009)

An international organization is soliciting applications from U.S. or non-U.S. non-profit or for-profit nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), public international organizations (PIO or IO), and other qualified non-USG organizations to implement a capacity/capability building and systems strengthening program to strengthen appropriate Government of the Philippines (GRP) agencies' and Local Government Units' (LGU) commitment to and support for public health services and enhance LGU capacity to provide and manage quality health services sustainably – especially family planning (FP, maternal and child health (MCH), tuberculosis (TB), HIV-AIDS, and other infectious diseases.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

(PDI - May 14, 20 & 21, 2006)

BAGUIO WATER DISTRICT
"WE SERVE"

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Baguio Water District, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites contractors registered with and classified by the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for eligibility and if found eligible, to bid for the hereunder contract:

Name of Contract	Installation of the remaining works of the Aus-AID project (Sub-System 16: Central Business District Area)
Location:	Baguio City
Brief Description	The project involves the installation of BWD supplied pipes and appurtenances namely pipelines ranging from 50mm to 40mm diameter – 3,717 lm, valves ranging from 50mm to 200mm diameter – 11 units, Pressure Reducing Valves, 75mm – 1 unit, Service taps, 25mm-104 units, Pavement demolition and restoration, 4,940 sq.m.
Revised Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	Php 7,928,450.29
Contract Duration	250 working days

Prospective bidders should possess a valid PCAB License applicable to the Contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and have key personnel available for the prosecution of the contract. The contractor must own the following minimum required equipment for the contract (1) backhoe with breaker and (2) lift truck. The BAC will use a non-discretionary pass/fail criteria in the Eligibility Check/Screening as well as in the Preliminary Examination of Bids. The BAC will conduct post-qualification on the lowest calculated bid.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bid Conference/s, Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The schedule of BAC activities is as follows:

BAC Activities	*Schedule*
1 Submission of Letter of Intent (LOI) including Application for Eligibility by interested bidders and simultaneous issuance of Eligibility Forms to interested bidders.	May 15-18, 2006
2 Submission of Eligibility documents	May 30, 2006
3 Results of Eligibility Check	June 6, 2006

The BAC will issue Eligibility Forms to interested bidders upon submission of a Letter of Intent to the BAC Secretariat at the Baguio Water District, Purok BWD, 003 Brgy. Marcoville, Baguio City and upon payment of a non-refundable amount of TWO THOUSAND PESOS (P2,000.00) to the Baguio Water District Cashier. Interested bidders shall submit the Eligibility Requirements to the BAC at the said address and on the due date as specified above.

Bid documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon the payment of a non-refundable amount of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00) to the BWD Cashier.

The Baguio Water District assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of their bids.

(Sgd.) Engr. Salvador M. Royeca
Chairman BWD BAC-Projects

(PDI - May 7 & 14 2006)

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
RFA (492-06-005)

An international organization is soliciting applications from only indigenous local organizations to assist appropriate Government of the Philippines (GOP) agencies and local government units to strengthen a health policy process that will improve health sector performance. It is envisioned that the selected Recipient will provide assistance in improving the policy environment and financing of essential health services.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
RFA (492-06-006)

An international organization is soliciting applications from only indigenous local organizations to assist public and private sector institution in the Philippines prevention and control of tuberculosis (TB) as well as address critical issues on emerging and reemerging infectious diseases.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for Ms. May Bringula.

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS
RFA (492-06-007)

An international organization is soliciting applications from U.S. or non-U.S. non-profit or for-profit nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), public international organizations (PIO or IO), and other qualified non-USG organizations to implement a program to assist appropriate Government of the Philippines (GRP) agencies and local government units to broaden the reach, improve the quality and sustain health promotion and communication to increase appropriate healthy behaviors and practices and consequently improve the health status of the Filipinos.

It is envisioned that a five-year cooperative agreement to begin on or about October 1, 2006. Applicants may upload the detailed information in www.grants.gov. For inquiries, contact (632) 552-9924, look for Ms. May Bringula

(PDI - May 14, 20 & 21, 2006)

Mayol's major mistakes

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I SAW THE YOUNG Manny Pacquiao just very recently. He was brave. He was powerful. He was tough.

I saw the young Manny Pacquiao just very recently. He was reckless. He was pointless. He was brainless.

Yes, on May 6, I saw in Rodel Mayol the young Manny Pacquiao.

That night, Mayol was fighting in Tokyo a guy named Eagle Kyowa, a Thai-turned-Japanese.

Kyowa was the 105-lb world champion. He should be. He fought like one. Calculating, Precise. Methodical.

In contrast, Mayol was just merely trying to unseat Kyowa. Unhinged. Ill-prepared. Wild.

How old was Rodel Mayol again this evening?

Twenty-four.

He didn't fight his age. He fought like a teenager. Immature. Mindless. Reckless as a clueless rebel.

Pacquiao had also gone through that phase.

Back when he was younger, Pacquiao was all power, all heart, all attack.

Fine, fine, but you need one more ingredient to put order to all that.

When Freddie Roach added brains into Pacquiao's fists, what the world saw next was a predator. Mr. Terminator.

Mayol can never be another Pacquiao if he does not change his fighting style—essentially a lousy style which the world watched in shock on May 6.

Mayol swung wildly in the first five rounds hoping to immediately land the haymaker.

No one told him he was fighting a great fighter, a world champ no less.

Worse, no one told him the fight was scheduled for 12 rounds and not 5.

By the 6th, Mayol's gas had been all used up.

Luckily for Mayol, he wasn't knocked out. His toughness held, so the great escape.

Matsuoka-san, Mayol's Japanese manager whom I met some 8 years ago in Tokyo and found to be a sincere fellow, should start looking for a trainer in the mold of a Freddie Roach. Better yet Matsuoka-san, why not put Mayol under Roach's care?

With a 22-1 card (17 KOs), Mayol has got what it takes to become another Pacquiao.

For in Mayol's case, it's not the fighter but the fighter's trainer.

Very much like Pacquiao's case.

* * *

Who said summer has ended?

Not me. I just had a dip at Celebrity in Q.C.

I swam a lot when I was a kid. A kid I had spent many summers swimming with in the country was Tom Garcia, now based in Cagayan de Oro City.

Tom, whose New York-based wife, Paz, is in town, turns a new leaf today.

Happy birthday, Kaaro!

Tom says today means more to him than his birthday because he will also celebrate what he calls "three feats achieved this year by my three children."

In March, his youngest son, Earl, finished his course in nursing.

Last month, his only daughter, Maye, passed the New York State board for nursing.

Only last May 6, his eldest son, lawyer Kenneth, passed the New York State bar.

The happiness of every father—and every mother for that matter—is seeing all the kids finish their studies.

Says Tom, 58: "I can now relax. I will resume my interrupted joys: Drift along as in floating on a river with mine eyes gazing at the sky, sniff the morning air with a pure and open mind, smell the flowers, and continually seek the warmth of true friends—that rare breed that seem to decrease, if not completely vanish, with the passing of time."

This is now Tom, the same Tom—the son of Mama Upong and Tia Elena—whom I had spent many summers with swimming naked as toddlers in a *kulos* (river) called Pogon Lomboy along Romulo Highway in Mangatarem, Pangasinan.

One truly successful son of the North is still very much around but not Pogon Lomboy.

Just the memories.

* * *

FASTBREAK. Happy birthday also tomorrow (May 15) to Bacolod's Mae Sison Uy, Ramon's beautiful better-half. Mae, who adores outdoors life, has chosen "a virtual virgin beach" called Antolang in Siaton, Oriental Negros, not far from Bert Bravo's beloved Dumaguete City, to celebrate the occasion… And who could forget Migel Antonio R. Mendoza, he with the missing two front teeth, who turned 5 on May 12? Happy birthday, Migel!

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtd

INQUIRER president Sandy P. Romualdez and HSBC president and CEO Warner Manning during the launch of the National Tournament of Champions. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Tourney of Champs at Eagle tomorrow

By Jong Arcano

"BE THE CHAMPION OF CHAMPions."

With members of the elite cast before them, INQUIRER president Sandy Prieto Romualdez and HSBC president and CEO Warner Manning challenged the participants of the second National Tournament of Club Champions to fight to the finish and bring home the bacon to their home turfs.

In Friday's Champions Ball held at the HSBC top honcho's residence in Forbes Park, Manning and Romualdez met the official entries of the five-day tournament firing off tomorrow at the Eagle Ridge Golf and Country Club in Gen. Trias, Cavite.

The champions were presented to the audience that also included sponsors, organizers and officials of golf organizations by their respective general managers and golf directors.

Twenty-seven golf clubs all over the country are fielding representatives to the NTCC which is presented by HSBC and INQUIRER Golf.

Manning said that HSBC is excited to support the NTCC "that will see the best of the best compete for the top prize."

"We're happy to send the winners again to the HSBC world match play and HSBC women's world match play in the UK and US, respectively," he said.

Romualdez, for her part, said that the NTCC and the INQUIRER have something in common: "It is that we are passionate about winning and leading."

Backers of the NTCC are Sta. Lucia Realty, Callaway as official apparel, Titleist as the official ball, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Platonic the official hole-in-one sponsor, Isuzu the official car, Pacific Air Media, Chivas Regal, The Travel Club and Microtel as the official hotel.

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AND
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NATIONAL TOURNAMENT OF CLUB CHAMPIONS
2·0·0·6
May 15 to 20, 2006
EAGLE RIDGE
GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB

ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB
Indren Naidoo
Vinice Godio

AGUINALDO GOLF CLUB
Matet Salivio

ALTA VISTA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
Ed Acain
Irina Gabasa

BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB
Bill Lawrence

CAMP JOHN HAY GOLF CLUB

CAPITOL HILLS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
Dennis Nicomedes
Ma. Andrea Legaspi

CEBU COUNTRY CLUB
Kathleen Uy

EASTRIDGE GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
Jong Soo Park
Tess Staub

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Jan Tambogon
Kwon Ye Seul

FOREST HILLS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
Larry Patnongon
Violy Pegels

ILOILO GOLF CLUB
Maggie Rivera

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Venjo Reyes

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Edmund Yee
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MIMOSA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
Kim Hee Youen

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Gerald Katigbak
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Marissa Romano

RANCHO PALOS VERDES GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
Alfonso Marcelino
Imelda Garcia

RIVIERA GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
Miko Yee
Cyna Rodriguez

ROYAL NORTHWOODS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
Rodel Mangulabnan
Lyn Mangulabnan

SHERWOOD HILLS GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
Teruo Nakanishi
Marlene Ty

STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB
Jingy Tuason
Vinice Godio

SUMMIT POINT GOLF CLUB
Val Plata

TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INTERNATIONAL GOLF CLUB
Augusto Theodore de Jesus

TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS GOLF CLUB
Oliver Gan
Beachie Abiera

VILLAMOR GOLF CLUB
Rudy Amata

VALLEY GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
Zaldy Villa
Violy Pegels

WACK WACK GOLF AND COUNTRY CLUB
Katya dela Cruz

Men's Division Champion wins a trip to
HSBC World Match Play
in Surrey, England

Ladies' Division Champion wins a trip to
LPGA World Match Play
in New Jersey, USA

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MPL wins 1st U-17 girls football title

SAN CARLOS CITY—BOOSTED BY AN INspiring performance from its skipper, Muntinlupa-Parañaque-Las Piñas overcame Iloilo, 2-1, to capture the first PFF National Under-17 Girls Football crown before a big crowd at the SJRI ballfield here.

Tournament Most Valuable Player Natasha Alquiros, the MPL captain, spearheaded the victory with a dominant display at midfield although it was Jessica Ryon, who struck the hardest as her teasing lob from 35 yards out in the 46th minute proved to be game-winner.

Rebecca Formoso, the tournament's best defender, booted in the equalizer for MPL in the 20th minute with a left-footed shot from the left, after Iloilo went ahead through Ma. Stellina Cataluña, whose 15th minute free kick from the right just outside the box slipped through the hands of MPL keeper Princess Trinidad and into the goal.

"Natasha (Alquiros) controlled the game. It was a team effort and I respect Iloilo because they played really well," said MPL coach Ernie Nierras, whose team finished the tournament with four wins against a draw.

MPL Football Association president Cathy Revilla said their club is overwhelmed with the distinction as the first girls' Under-17 national champion.

Ryon emerged as best midfielder while Trinidad won the best goalkeeper plum. Iloilo took the fair play award and Cataluña was declared best striker with seven goals.

In the first game, Davao posted a 2-1 win over Negros Oriental to salvage third place in this tournament supported by Petron, Red Ribbon, 2Go and Sports Plus Channel of Solar Sports. *Cedelf P. Tupas, PDI Visayas Bureau*

PACQUIAO

Pacquiao off to US Monday

GENERAL SANTOS City—Manny Pacquiao took his usual 7.5-km morning jog at the oval plaza in this city Saturday, briefly shaking hands with fans or simply waving to an ever-growing crowd of supporters on the eve of Mother's Day celebration Sunday.

He decided to stay a day longer to mark the birthday of beloved mom Dionisia (Nene), who turns 56 Monday when he leaves for Manila en route to Los Angeles at 10 p.m. via PAL flight 102.

Prior to his departure, Pacquiao will meet his well-wishers at the lobby of Discovery Suites in Ortigas, Pasig, official residence of both his party and that of Mexican fighter Oscar Larios.

The entire Pacquiao household—mom Dionisia, Isidra, a housewife and the eldest of the siblings; Bobby, a boxer; and Rogel, president of Manny Pacquiao Promotions which will promote the coming Pacquiao-Larios fight on July 2 at the Araneta Coliseum—is wishing him well.

"My only wish is that Manny comes home safe and victorious on his next bout," said Nene.

Republic of the Philippines
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E-mail Address: snlazaro@doh.gov.ph & mcell@info.com.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The **San Lazaro Hospital** hereby invites sealed written bids from interested and eligible suppliers/manufacturers/retailers to participate in the bidding for the procurement and delivery of **Hospital Supplies and Materials for the 2nd Semester, July-December 2006; Hospital Contractual Services for Security and Laundry. Funding sources are from the GOP Allotment for Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses for Supplies and Materials, Revolving Funds from Drugs and Medicines and Hospital Retained Incomes.**

Application forms for **ELIGIBILITY** shall be available upon payment of non-refundable fee of Two Hundred Pesos (P200.00) from May 10-24, 2006 9:00 am to 4:00 pm at the BAC Secretariat, Procurement Unit, San Lazaro Hospital. Please bring original copies of all submitted document for proper authentication

Interested Eligible Bidders can obtain the BID DOCUMENTS at the BAC Secretariat located at the Procurement Unit, San Lazaro Hospital from May 22, 2006 up to the date before the opening of the bids by category and upon payment of non refundable fees as indicated per category. Payment shall be strictly on a cash basis at the hospital Collection Unit.

• Drugs and Medicines Supplies	Php2,000.00
• Laboratory Supplies/Reagents	Php1,500.00
• Medical Supplies	Php1,000.00
• Medical Gases & Oxygen	Php2,000.00
• Radiology/ Dietary/Janitorial Supplies	Php 500.00 per category
• Maintenance Supplies/Linen Supplies	Php 500.00 per category
• Laundry Service	Php1,000.00
• Security Service	Php1,000.00

General **PRE-BID CONFERENCE** will be held on **MAY 26, 2006 at 9:00 am at SLH Amphitheater**, San Lazaro Hospital, Quiricada St., Sta. Cruz, Manila unless announced otherwise.

OPENING OF BID must be submitted to the Bids and Awards Committee Secretariat at the time/dates specified herein per category on which said bids will be opened to the Public, to wit:

• Drugs and Medicines Supplies	9:01 am	June 7, 2006
• Laboratory Supplies/Reagents	1:31 pm	
• Medical Supplies/Gases & Oxygen	9:01 am	June 8, 2006
• Dietary/Foodstuff	1:31 pm	
• Radiology Supplies	2:31 pm	
• Janitorial Supplies/Linen Supplies	3:01 pm	
• Maintenance Supplies	9:01 am	June 9, 2006
• Laundry Service	1:31 pm	
• Security Service	2:31 pm	

Each BID must be accompanied by a **Bid Security** in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than the percentage of the Approved Budget Cost per category in any form as indicated in the Bid Data Sheet (BDS)

For further details, please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone nos. 3099552 and Procurement Unit 3099517.

THE SLH-BAC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ACCEPT OR REJECT ANY OR ALL BID, TO ANNUL THE BIDDING PROCESS AND REJECTS ALL BIDS AT ANYTIME PRIOR TO THE AWARD OF THE CONTRACT, WITHOUT THEREBY INCURRING ANY LIABILITY TO THE AFFECTED BIDDERS OR ANY OBLIGATION TO INFORM THE AFFECTED BIDDER/BIDDERS ON THE REASONS FOR DOING SO. SLH-BAC ASSUMES NO OBLIGATION TO COMPENSATE OR INDEMNIFY BIDS NOR DEEM IT GUARANTEED THAT AN AWARD WILL BE MADE.

(Sgd.) **ELEONORITA E. REYES**
Chairperson
SLH-Bids and Awards Committee

Noted by:
ARTURO B. CABANBAN, MD, MHA
Medical Center Chief II
Posted at the G-EPS Website

(PDI – May 14 and 21, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST

CONTRACTING OF FINANCIAL CONSULTING SERVICES FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE LOAN GUARANTEE FUND FOR SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC (PV) SYSTEMS

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
RURAL POWER PROJECT
FINANCIAL CONSULTING SERVICES
GEF Grant No. TF 052188

The Government of the Philippines, through the Department of Energy (DOE), with grant assistance from the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), is implementing the Rural Power Project (RPP). In addition, with the assistance of United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the DOE is implementing the Capacity Building to Remove Barriers to Renewable Energy Development in the Philippines Project (the CBRED Project).

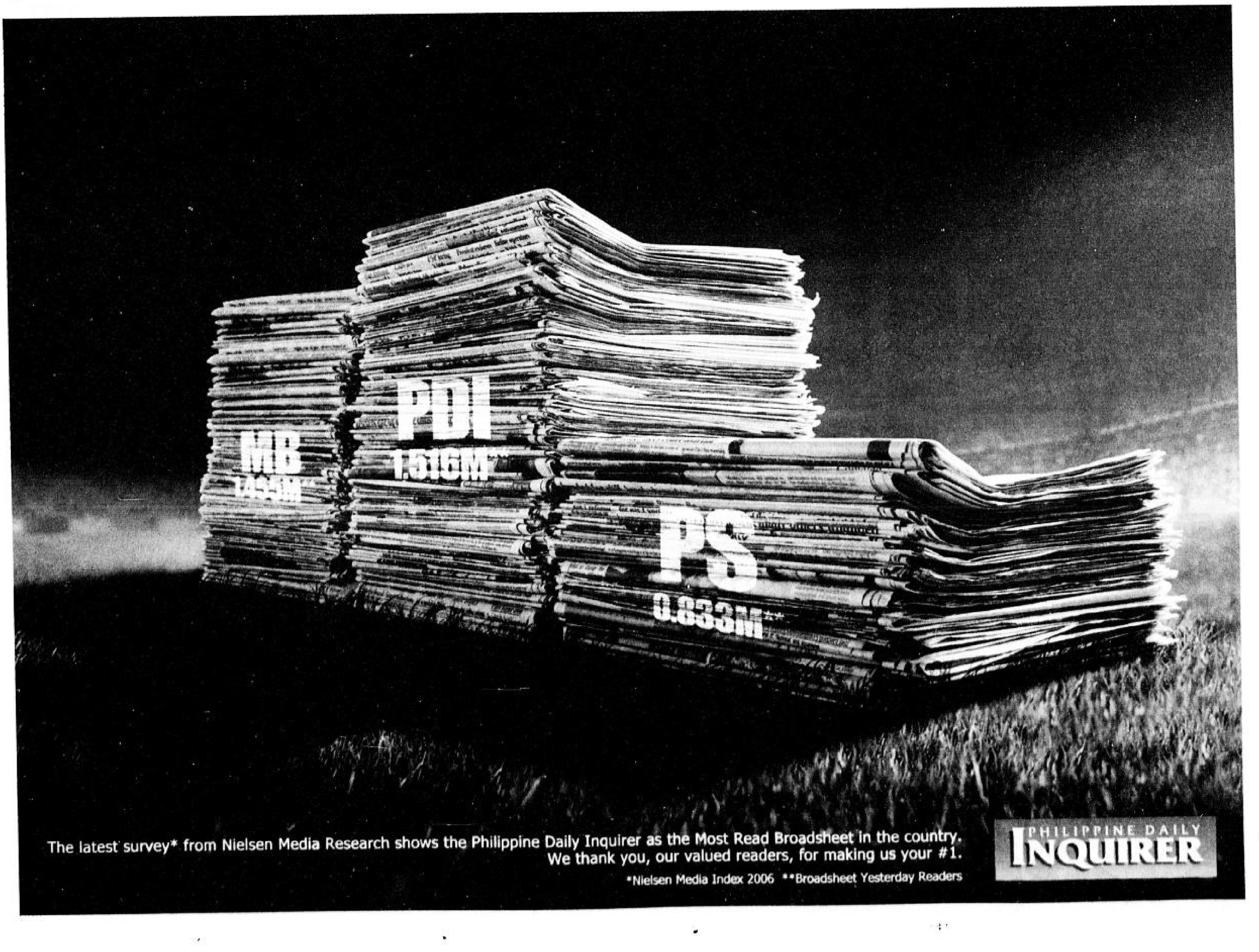
One of the financial barriers identified to develop the market for renewable energy sources is the perceived credit and collateral risks that hinder access to term credit by rural households wishing to install a stand-alone RE systems (solar PV systems). To address this barrier and mitigate these risks, the DOE has allocated US$1.0 million to the LGF for the purpose of issuing partial credit guarantees that provide credit enhancement for term loans going to finance PV systems acquired by rural households. These partial credit guarantees are expected to facilitate access to formal credit by rural households wishing to electrify their dwellings. By absorbing part of the credit risk, the LGF will share the risk faced by primary lenders such as micro-finance institutions financing the acquisition of solar PV systems by rural households. The LGF will also provide partial credit guarantees to facilitate the financing of renewable energy projects under the CBRED Project.

To implement and manage the LGF component for solar PV systems, the DOE will need the services of a firm or a financial consultant to act as Program Manager (PM). The DOE now invites eligible firms and individuals to indicate their interest in providing the services. Interested parties must provide information indicating that they are qualified to perform the services (curriculum vitaé, brochures, description of similar assignments, experience in similar conditions, availability of appropriate skills among staff, etc.).

Expression of interest must be sent to the address or emails listed below before 5 pm of 29 May 2006.

Department of Energy
Attn: Mylene C. Capongcol
Project Director, Rural Power Project
4/F PNOC Building 6, Fort Bonifacio,
Taguig, Metro Manila, Philippines
Telephone Nos.: (632) 840-2120
Email: **mycaps@doe.gov.ph; gzamudio@doe.gov.ph**

(PDI–May 14, 2006)



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*Nielsen Media Index 2006 **Broadsheet Yesterday Readers

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) or email us at pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

TOM HANKS' long, straight locks as Robert Langdon has generated as much dispute as the book and movie.

'A rip-roaring scavenger hunt'

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

LOS ANGELES—"SHOULD I STAY or should I flee?"

Someone heard **Tom Hanks** crack that joke to his "The Da Vinci Code" director, **Ron Howard**, on the steps leading to the Sony Pictures Studios' Backstage Theatre, where Howard just had a press con with us on the controversial movie.

As Tom entered the theater where, as we reported earlier, we were shown 35 minutes of footage from the thriller, we noticed that he was still sporting his (character) Robert Langdon hairstyle. The look—long, straight locks slicked back—generated almost as much controversy as the book and movie.

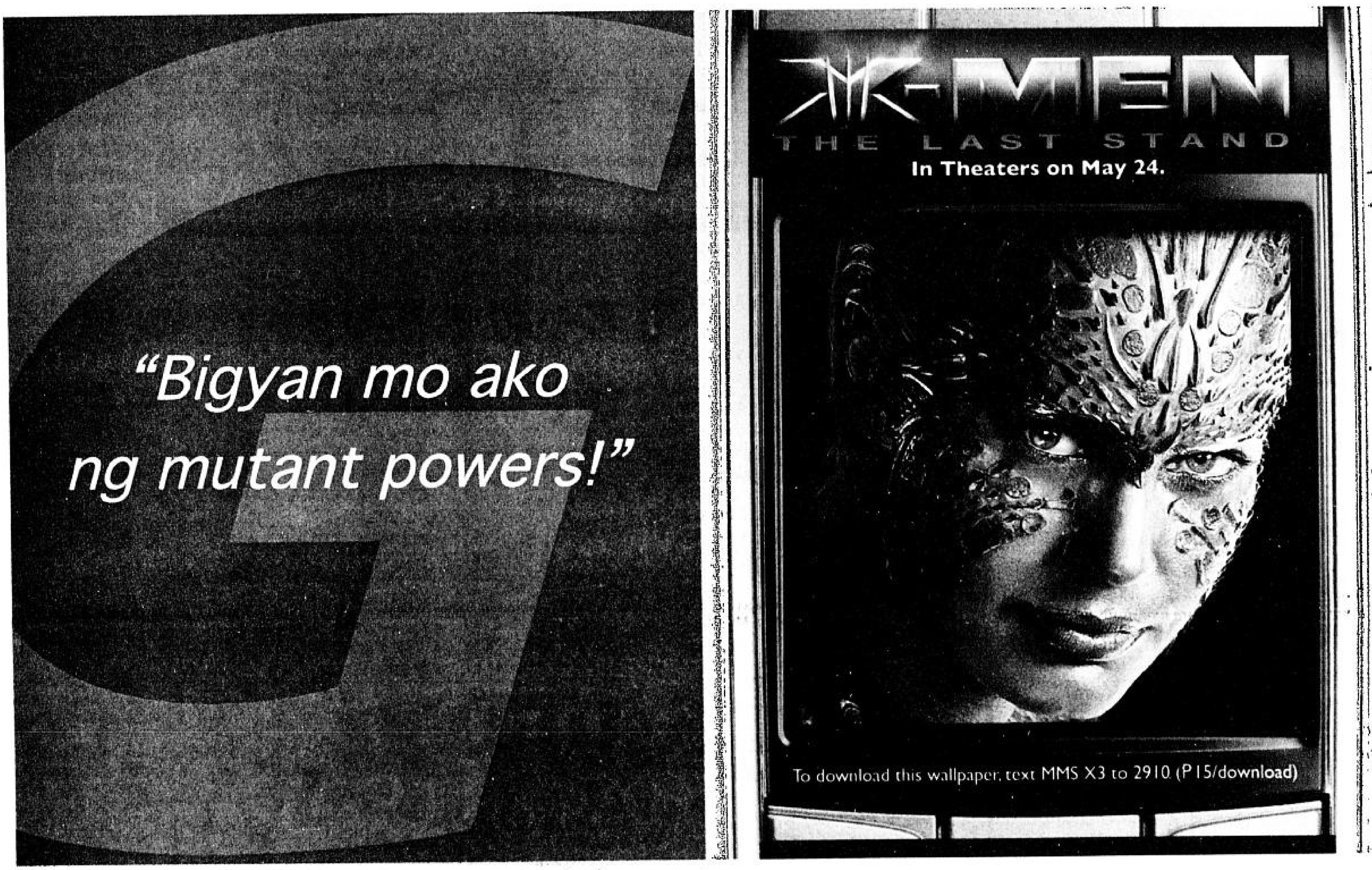
When a woman told him, "You look very handsome," Tom quipped, "That's it! I'm walking away. There's your story right there. Put it on the headline. Yes!"

To hear the actor mention Scooby-Doo, yes, Scooby-Doo and repeatedly say "scavenger hunt" to describe "The Da Vinci Code's" main plot, you wouldn't think this is the same movie that's getting an archbishop and an anti-pornography (!) group in the Philippines all riled up.

After he said that Ron was still editing a crucial three minute-sequence, Tom was asked if this section already had musical scoring. He was quick on the funny draw: "Yes, it does. We use 'I'm A Believer' by The Monkees. This is not a cheap song to get the rights to (laughter)."

He began the press con by asking the

'A RIP-ROARING'/ A2-3



"Bigyan mo ako ng mutant powers!"
X-MEN
THE LAST STAND

In Theaters on May 24.

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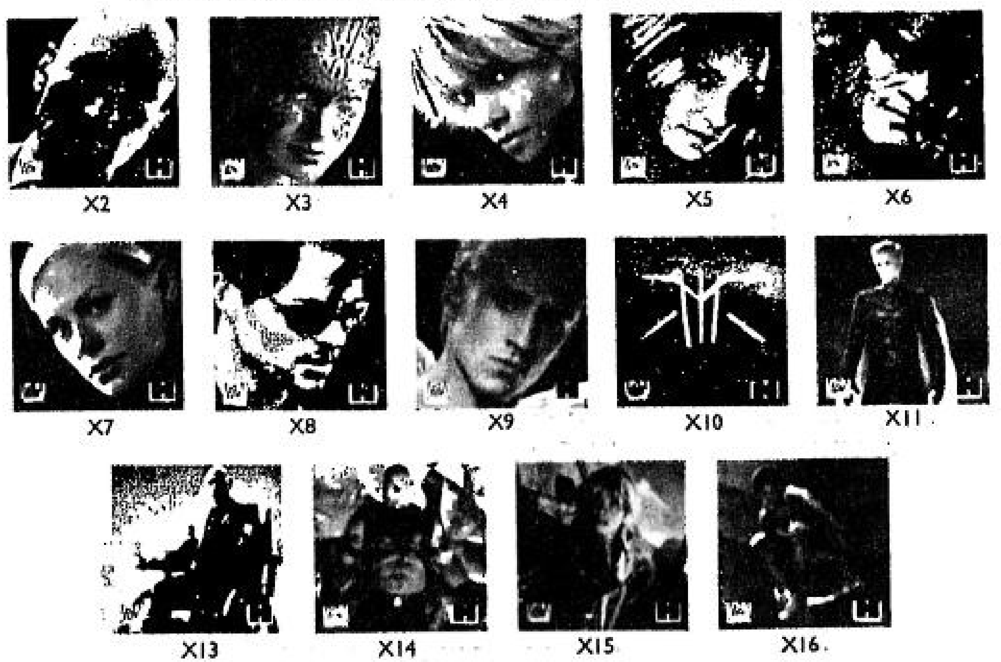

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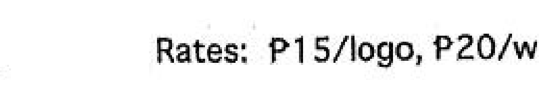

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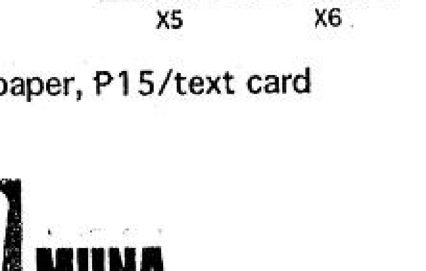

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MAG 7-ELEVEN MUNA

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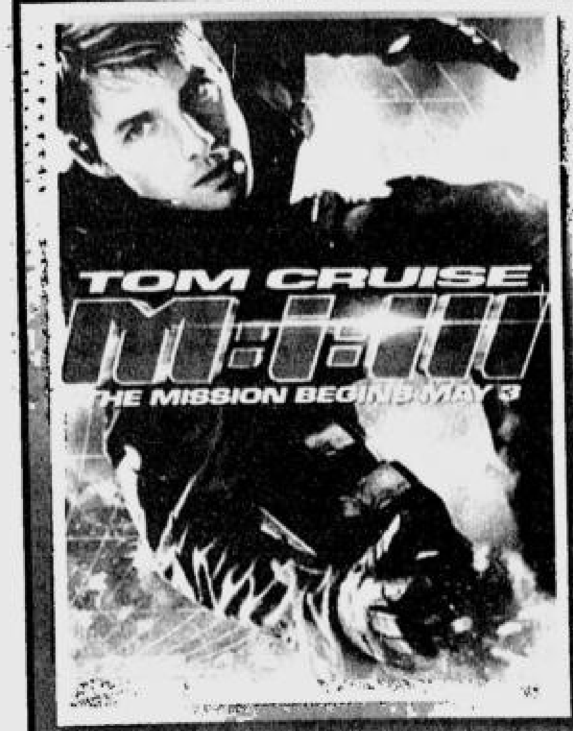

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METRO MANILA

THE PODIUM
CINEMA 1
POSEIDON
CINEMA 2
M:I:III

SM MEGACINEMA
1 POSEIDON
2 SENTINEL
3 M:I:III
4 POSEIDON
5 AQUAMARINE
6 REINCARNATION
7 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
8 D LUCKY ONES
9 SILENT HILL
10 M:I:III
11 THE WILD
12 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

SM NORTH EDSA
1 POSEIDON
2 SILENT HILL
3 REINCARNATION
4 M:I:III
5 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
6 AQUAMARINE
7 POSEIDON
8 M:I:III

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 M:I:III
2 CHINESE TALL STORY
3 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
4 POSEIDON

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 AQUAMARINE
2 ICE AGE 2
3 PAMAHIIN
4 M:I:III
5 POSEIDON
6 SILENT HILL
7 POSEIDON
8 THE WILD
9 D LUCKY ONES
10 REINCARNATION
11 RESERVED
12 RESERVED

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 POSEIDON
2 POSEIDON
3 M:I:III
4 SILENT HILL
5 REINCARNATION
6 D LUCKY ONES
7 AQUAMARINE
8 SENTINEL
9 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
10 PAMAHIIN

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 POSEIDON
2 M:I:III
3 SILENT HILL
4 POSEIDON

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 M:I:III
2 M:I:III
3 POSEIDON
4 SILENT HILL
5 THE WILD
6 D LUCKY ONES

SM CITY MANILA
1 M:I:III
2 AQUAMARINE
3 REINCARNATION
4 POSEIDON
5 THE WILD
6 POSEIDON
7 WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
8 M:I:III
9 SILENT HILL
10 POSEIDON
11 D LUCKY ONES
12 PAMAHIIN

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 POSEIDON
2 POSEIDON
3 M:I:III
4 M:I:III
5 SILENT HILL
6 PAMAHIIN
7 AQUAMARINE
8 REINCARNATION
9 D LUCKY ONES

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 POSEIDON
2 POSEIDON
3 M:I:III
4 SILENT HILL

SM CITY SUCAT
1 SILENT HILL
2 POSEIDON
3 M:I:III
4 POSEIDON

SM CITY BAGUIO
POSEIDON
BANDIDAS
M:I:III
M:I:III

SM CITY MARILAO
POSEIDON
SUBMERGED
APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
M:I:III

SM CITY BACOOR
1 PAMAHIIN
2 M:I:III
3 POSEIDON
4 SILENT HILL
5 M:I:III
6 POSEIDON
7 D LUCKY ONES
8 AQUAMARINE

LUZON

SM CITY BATANGAS
SHAGGY DOG
POSEIDON
M:I:III
SHE'S THE MAN

SM CITY LUCENA
THE WILD
M:I:III
POSEIDON
APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

SM CITY CLARK
NOW OPEN
POSEIDON
THE WILD
M:I:III
SILENT HILL
APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
MAGING AKIN MULI

SM CITY PAMPANGA
POSEIDON
M:I:III
SILENT HILL
PAMAHIIN
APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
SUBMERGED

SM CITY MOLINO
M:I:III
POSEIDON
SILENT HILL
APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

SM CITY STA. ROSA
SHE'S THE MAN
WHEN A STRANGER CALLS
M:I:III
POSEIDON

SM CITY CEBU
M:I:III
POSEIDON
SUBMERGED
THE DARK
D LUCKY ONES
SENTINEL
M:I:III
POSEIDON

VISAYAS MINDANAO

SM CITY ILOILO
D LUCKY ONES
RESERVED
POSEIDON
M:I:III
POSEIDON
SILENT HILL
RESERVED
APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR

SM CITY DAVAO
POSEIDON
SHE'S THE MAN
D LUCKY ONES
THE WILD
POSEIDON
M:I:III

SM CITY GAISANO
POSEIDON
NORTH COUNTRY
PAMAHIIN
M:I:III

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GALLERIA 632-9116
1 POSEIDON • THX
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 10:00
3 REINCARNATION
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50
4 POSEIDON
11:40 2:00 4:20 6:40 9:00
5 POSEIDON
12:10 2:30 4:50 7:10 9:30
6 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00
7 AQUAMARINE
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50
8 SILENT HILL
2:00 4:40 7:20
9 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00
10 SLITHER
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12
1 POSEIDON
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 10:00
2 SLITHER
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00
3 SILENT HILL
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 9:50
4 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
6 REINCARNATION
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
7 POSEIDON
12:00 2:10 4:20 6:40 9:00

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199
1 SLITHER
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
11:20 1:50 4:20 6:50 9:15
3 SUBMERGED
1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:00
4 AQUAMARINE
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05
5 SILENT HILL
1:30 4:30 6:10 9:00
6 POSEIDON
12:10 2:10 4:10 6:10 8:10
7 POSEIDON
11:00 1:00 3:00 5:00 7:00 9:10
8 REINCARNATION
1:20 3:40 6:00 8:20

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30
1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 POSEIDON
3 SILENT HILL
4 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
5 POSEIDON
6 SLITHER

CITISQUARE MALABON 288-2575
1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 POSEIDON
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

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2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3 REINCARNATION
4 SILENT HILL

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4 POSEIDON

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1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 POSEIDON
3 MURDER
4 SLITHER
5 TIGER BLADE

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1 POSEIDON
2 SUBMERGED
3 FINAL DESTINATION 3
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3

ANGELES (045) 802-2348
1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
3 SILENT HILL
4 POSEIDON

IMUS (046) 875-3538 (046) 471-8188
1 BANDIDAS
2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
3 POSEIDON
4 SUBMERGED

STARMILLS (045) 875-1927 (045) 961-5770
1 SILENT HILL
2 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
3 SUBMERGED
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
5 POSEIDON
6 POSEIDON

BACOLOD (034) 441-0453 (034) 441-0459
1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
2 THE WILD
3 POSEIDON
4 SLITHER
5 GRANDMA'S BOY
6 THE LAST HOLIDAY

ILOILO (033) 336-8070
1 POSEIDON
2 SLITHER
3 SILENT HILL
4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
5 APOY SA DIBDIB NG SAMAR
6 THE LAST HOLIDAY

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FEEDBACK

Leave her be

From Belle Carpio (bebeko27@msn.com):

To all those who love to hate actress-Heart Evangelista: For the longest time, Heart has been a role model for many young boys and girls here in the United States. Why all these "anti-Heart" sentiments? She hasn't done anything wrong; she's just being herself. If she was such a bad person, why can't John Prats let go? Why would Jericho Rosales fall for her and proudly declare it? Heart, we want to let you know that you are dearly beloved here in the US. We will support you in everything.

All for options

From Nikki (poets15@yahoo.com), Dubai, UAE:

We are subscribers of TFC, and we are thankful that we have a network that updates us on the latest in the Philippines. We hope GMA 7 does its best to compete with TFC so that we will have options.

The special attention that "Wowowee" pays to TFC subscribers is admirable, but the program lacks research and new concepts. *Nakakasawa na! Parepareho... paulit-ulit!*

We're glad some *telenovelas* like "Gulong ng Palad" have picked up in pace, but it seems *hirap na hirap ang* director and writer *na tapusin ang kwento.* Joross Gamboa and Roxanne Guinoo need more workshops. As for Cherie Gil... *wala kang kupas!*

"Game KNB?" is a nice show. Kris Aquino is wonderful. But it's such a waste of time to let contestants look for answers from a collection of books.

Some suggestions: Remake "Mga Mata ni Angelita" with Sharlene of "Goin' Bulilit." Let's make a show for Jayson and Franzen. Recreate the Dolphy-Panchito combination.

Why not a contest like "American Idol" with the "champions" of "ASAP" as contestants.

Or a "Pinoy Big Brother—Squatters Edition." I mean, let's sent real and very ordinary people to Kuya's House.

What's the fuss?

From Remylyn Rejano (Xenex2657@Yahoo.com):

Why are a lot of people fussing about "The Da Vinci Code"?

I've read the book and found it very interesting. I wasn't offended at all. Alexandre Dumas, who wrote "The Three Musketeers," mixed history and fiction, too. Tom Clancy's "Red Rabbit" is his own take on the assassination attempt on the Pope, and it wasn't at all criticized.

I hope the MTRCB ignores those self-righteous know-it-alls.

'I read [the book] and actually liked the character of Robert Langdon despite the fact that he's described as Harrison Ford in a Harris Tweed [jacket]'

From page A2-1

first question.

What did they show you, guys?
Thirty-five minutes of footage.

That's the whole movie (laughter). That's it—35 minutes. The book is not that long a read so neither is the movie (laughter). It's a bold choice that Ron Howard made to keep it at 35 minutes. The studio's excited. They could get a lot of showings in.

That's it; we had to turn the tables immediately.

Some members of Opus Dei, local governments and conservative religious groups in the Philippines are calling for a ban on "The Da Vinci Code." Can you comment on this?
Well, more power to them. If anybody wants to legislate some sort of action to ban the movie, go ahead. There's plenty of movies that people choose not to see without the aid of government bodies. That is the people's right and I would support them every step of the way. Let's not deny the fact that the cinema is, without doubt, a powerful art form... that can conjure up an awful lot of passion.

The book and the movie lend itself to a lot of discussion.?
The story that we tell and the book is loaded with all sorts of hooey and fun kind of scavenger hunt. There are historical aspects of paintings, buildings and theories that have been around for a real long time. I look at it this way: There's a protracted interpretation, if you will, of Da Vinci's "Madonna of the Rocks" in Dan Brown's book in which this subject is doing this, or this means that, and that means that... When you read it as Dan Brown wrote it, you think, oh my gosh, this is actually in this painting. Well, this speaks volumes about interpreting what Da Vinci must have meant.

The interpretation of the symbols is all in the eye or mind of the beholder. If you're going to take a huge budget motion picture like this at its absolute face value, or like a documentary with facts, I think you'd be making a huge mistake. If you want to view this as controversy... as [something] offensive to your sensibilities, well, then by all means don't go see the movie or read the book. But I have a feeling that if you have read the book, you'd go see the movie. You might be offended either way. What are you going to do?

How did you react when you first read the book?
If you're asking, did I have a religious experience reading the book? No. No book of fiction, no novel is going to alter my consciousness of anything that I particularly believe in. I'll take it into account and will weigh it but, by and large, I don't live my life according to the specifics that happened say, thousands of years ago.

Some imagined Harrison Ford in this role. Did you want to play Robert Langdon right away, as you read the book?
Word was all over town that Ron and Brian (Grazer, producer) had the movie rights, along with John Calley (another producer). There was no offer, nothing specific ... but they asked, would you be interested? I said well, I haven't read it. I could have said, I don't know this guy. I

'A RIP-ROARING'/ A2-4

HANKS and Howard at work on "Da Vinci."

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MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 PG13 1:45,4:30,7:15,10:00	AQUAMARINE G 12:00,2:20,4:40,7:00,9:20	POSEIDON PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10

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cherry pie picache john prats polo ravales jiro manio
christian vazquez luis alandy mike tan lj reyes glaiza de castro

Manay Po!

A film by joel c. lamangan, dgpi

Also starring:
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THX

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 11:50, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30	2 POSEIDON	3 THX POSEIDON 12:45, 3:00, 5:15, 7:30, 9:45 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 AQUAMARINE	5 SILENT HILL	6 POSEIDON	7 POSEIDON
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	2 POSEIDON		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 2:15, 4:50, 7:25, 10:00 GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX POSEIDON 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:30 GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 POSEIDON 2:20, 4:35, 6:50, 9:05, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	4 POSEIDON 1:35, 3:50, 6:05, 8:20, 10:35 GUARANTEED SEATS	5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3 1:15, 3:40, 6:15, 8:45, 11:20 GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX POSEIDON	2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3		
	3 POSEIDON	4 AQUAMARINE	5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 POSEIDON	2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	3 POSEIDON	4 SUBMERGED
M2 MARKET! MARKET!	1 POSEIDON	2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3		
	3 REINCARNATION	4 POSEIDON	5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3	

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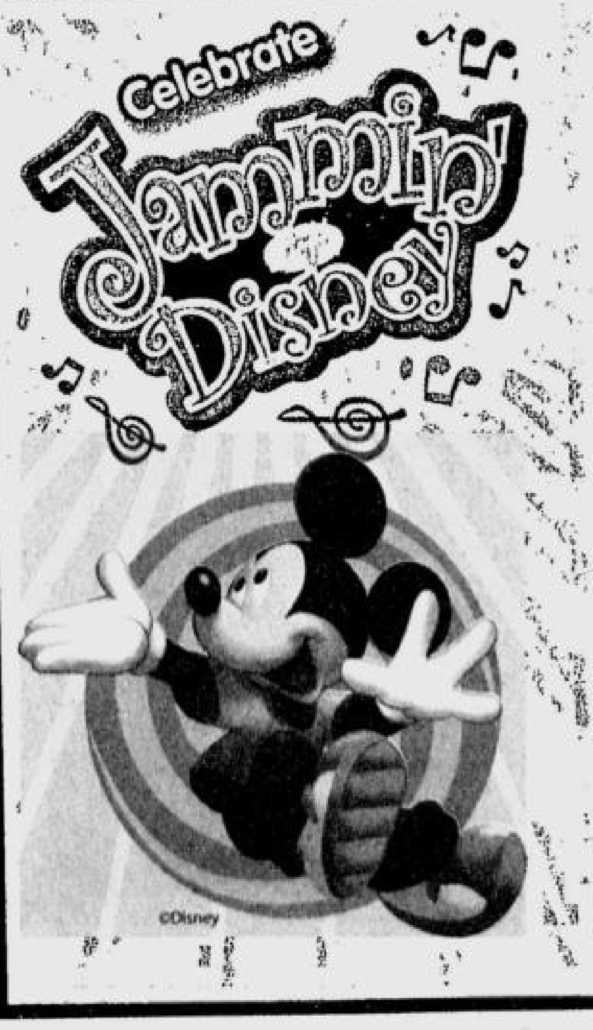

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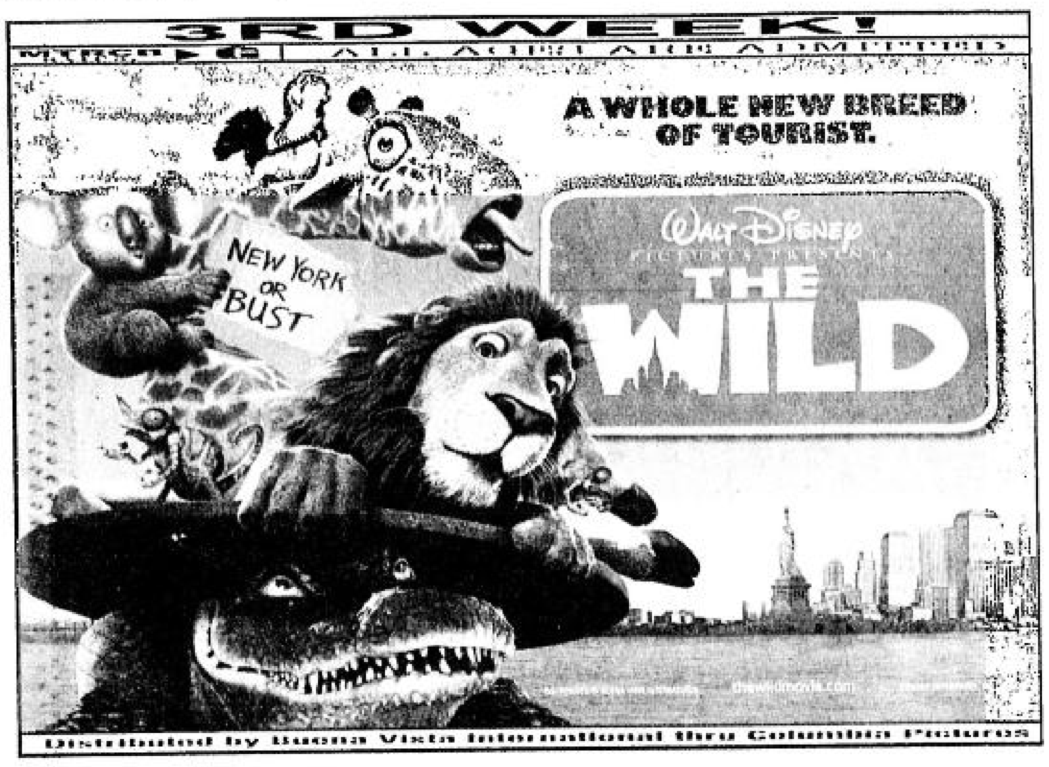
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3 SLITHER
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> 'If you're asking, did I have a religious experience reading the book? No, I didn't'

'A rip-roaring scavenger hunt'

From page A2-3

don't know this story. Then I read it and I thought, I could do that. And I actually liked the character of Robert Langdon despite the fact that he's described as Harrison Ford in a Harris Tweed jacket. We blew that Harris Tweed right out of it and then the rest seemed to take care of itself.

There's a jillion books out there that I've read that I thought were great but they're not movies. This book had the scavenger hunt aspect that I thought was very exciting.

Some believe that this movie might actually help the [Catholic] Church.

When the book was setting record sales and everybody was reading it, you could put a sign outside a church that says we'll be discussing the true meaning of Ash Wednesday or "The Da Vinci Code." A jillion people will show up. Maybe to tear it apart or maybe to support it but, more than anything else, just to have dialogue about what it does and does not mean. What could possibly be wrong with that? I have plenty of friends—people who are serious about their faith—who have said to me, "Let's get together and not be afraid [to] have a conversation." All it is, is dialogue. That never hurts.

I'm curious to learn more about Dan Brown because one would think that he's like a fusty academic but to me, the book read like a bodice ripper with breathless italics.

Yes, it does. Which is probably one of the reasons [that] it sold more than those Leonardo Da Vinci biographies (laughter). The book takes some aspects of theory, some aspects of fact and a huge aspect of interpretation and turns it into a rip-roaring—I keep using the word scavenger hunt over and over again... but that's what it is. I think any book that says Leonardo Da Vinci, Sir Isaac Newton, I.M. Pei and I don't know who else, Scooby-Doo, all belong to a top secret council of people who are trying to alter the course of humankind... is just kind of silly but nonetheless it can be a fun story particularly if Scooby-Doo uncovers the ghost up in the windmill. That will be really exciting.

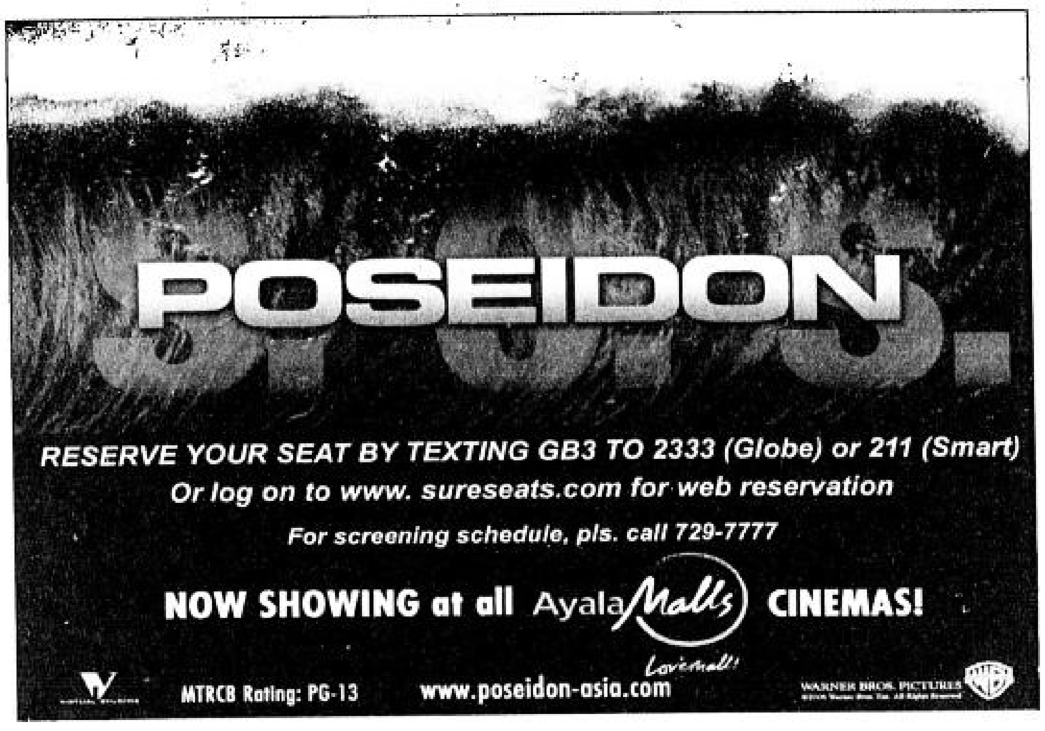
So what's Dan Brown really like?

Dan Brown is a very intelligent man. He's a scholar, an academic. He knows what he did. He knows the lightning that he brought to this. He's like a historian that looks at these different possible connections that you can make and he has fun making the connections.

As you turn 50 this year, you have reached a point where you are often introduced as Mr. Oscar since you won twice. What effect does that description have on you?

None. You can't stop [getting old] (laughter). You can't put it off. I have been around a long time and every time I'm introduced, they always say, here's Tom, the two-time Oscar blah-blah-blah so you can't escape that either. I like getting older. I've never felt more than 27. That's all. You try to get a good night's sleep, try to eat right and get some exercise. I never looked back and yearned for the magnificent old days when I looked better or felt different. I wake up every morning kind of content with what's happening. I embrace the fact that I will be turning 50 this year. I can't lie. I was on "The Love Boat" in 1980. I embrace every birthday that comes along. I think more interesting challenges are thrown at me. I would want to play roles with the themes that a 50-year-old-guy would have to do deal with. What can you do except look in the mirror and say, what in the world happened (laughter)?

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.



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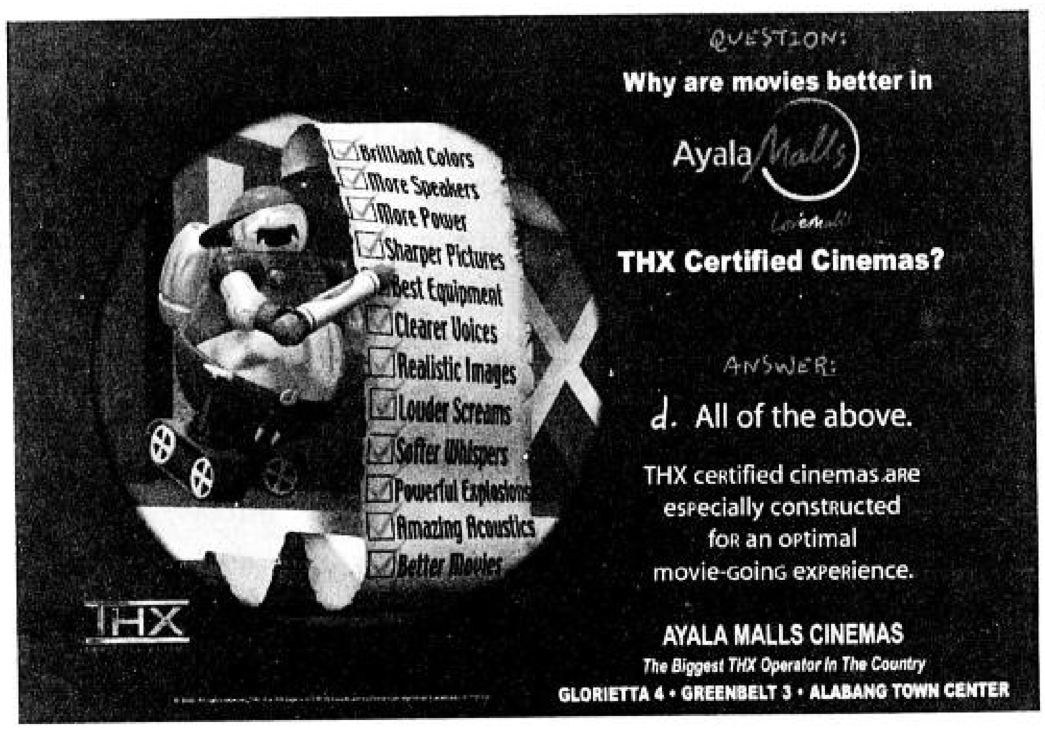

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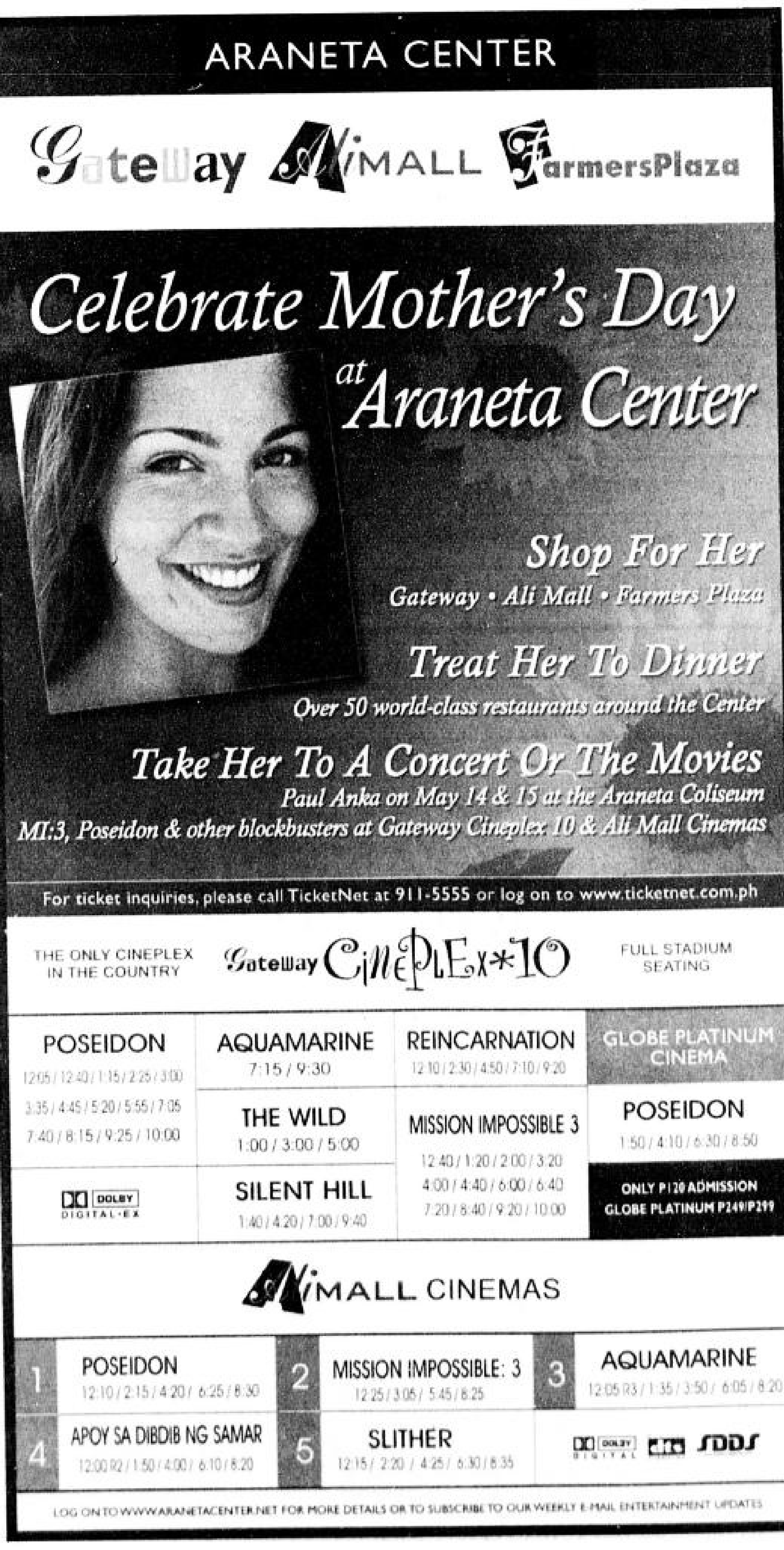
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Paul Anka tonight at Big Dome

PAUL ANKA, ONE OF THE GREATEST ENtertainers of all time, performs tonight and tomorrow night at the Araneta Coliseum in Cubao, Quezon City.

The Viva Concerts presentation is titled, "I Did It May Way, Paul Anka Live in Manila."

The Canadian singer-songwriter started creating hits as a 16-year-old and continued on such a course for nearly 50 years. Among his biggest hits are "Diana," "Put Your Head on My Shoulder" and "Times of Your Life."

Anka has always been a big favorite among Filipinos. His recordings enjoy regular airplay on local radio to this day and his albums are consistent sellers. He first visited the Philippines as a teenager in the early '60s to perform at the Big Dome, then returned two times for sold-out performances at the PICC.

Tickets to the current shows are priced at P6,000 (patron), P5,000 (lower box), P3,000 (upper box A), P1,500 (upper box B) and P500 (general admission). Tickers are available at SM Ticketnet and at the Araneta Coliseum box office.

PAUL ANKA

Pavarotti of salsa

Imagine a powerful voice such as Pavarotti's, singing salsa music. It could only belong to Tito Nieves, leading *salsero* of the '80s, the '90s, and still at it.

Humberto Nieves was born June, 4, 1958 in Puerto Rico. At age 17 and already living with his family in New York City, he knew what he wanted—to conquer the world of salsa music. His professional career thus began as lead singer for Orquesta Cimarron. Nieves went on to join the famous Hector Lavoe Orchestra. In 1978, he had his recording debut as lead vocalist with the noted Puerto Rican composer Johnny Ortiz and his band, Taibori.

In the early '80s Nieves co-founded a band called Conjunto Clasico. The band performed throughout New York City in the traditional *conjunto* style with the distinctive sound of Nieves and his chorus.

He shared the stage with Celia Cruz and Tito Puente. Alongside the salsa greats of his era, Nieves played a big role in the evolution of tropical music.

In 1988, he recorded his first solo album, which earned him his first gold record. He would produce two more golds the following year, with his second album, "Yo Quiero Cantar." Most of his succeeding recordings went either gold or platinum.

On June 3, Nieves performs at the PICC Reception Hall with his 16-piece band from Orlando.

Call 8969939, 8090216, 8919999, (0917) 607-7971 or (0919) 550-6762.

Lemons, not Tolits

Instead of the "BJ Tolits Forbes Dance Hits" album mall tour, an "Orange and Lemons' Mother's Day Special" will be presented by Universal Records at SM Sta. Rosa, Laguna, this afternoon at 5.

Universal announced that Tolits is in the hospital because of a stomach upset. Orange and Lemons will perform from their double-platinum album, "Strike Whilst The Iron Is Hot"—including "Hanggang Kailan (Umuwi Ka Na Baby)" and "Pinoy Ako." They will sign autographs after the show.

TITO NIEVES

ORANGE AND LEMONS

SHOW TIME

Today

Mom's Day Out with **Ruby Rodriguez** at **Metropolis Star Alabang**; 4 p.m.

"Showtime! Musicals On Stage" with the San Miguel Master Chorale and Philharmonic Orchestra at the **Grand Atrium** of **Shangri-La Plaza.**

May 16

K and **The Boxers** at **Zirkoh Greenhills**

May 17

K and **The Boxers** at **Klownz Araneta**
Sitti at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

May 18

The CompanY at **Hard Rock Café**

May 19

Troy Montero at **Ratsky Malate**
K and **The Boxers** at **Ratsky Tomas Morato Dave** at **Suburbia**

May 20

Winston In Concert featuring **Parokya ni Edgar**and **Tarcisius** at **Cocomangas Oyster Bar** in Boracay
Kim Flores at the **La Salle Gym** in Bacolod
K and **The Boxers** at **Ratsky Malate**
Family Fun Game Show with **Ruby Rodriguez** at **Metropolis Star Alabang**; 4 p.m.

May 21

Ara Mina at **Ratsky Morato**
Join the Club at **Robinson's Place Dasmariñas**

May 22

Blue Jean Junkie at **Tavern on the Square**, Greenbelt 3

May 23

K and The Boxers at Zirkoh **Greenhills**

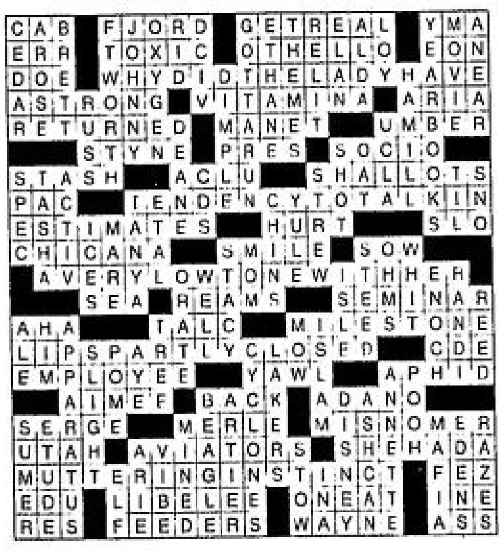
May 24

K and The Boxers at Klownz **Araneta**
Sitti at Tavern on the Square, Greenbelt 3

May 26

Silver: The Songs of Vehnee Saturno at the Araneta Coliseum with **Jay-R, Rachelle Ann Go, Mark Bautista, Juris Fernandez** and guests **Ella Mae Saison, The CompanY** and **Martin Nievera**
K and **The Boxers** at **Ratsky Tomas Morato.**
Hotdog with **Dimsum** at **Suburbia** Malate

ANSWER TO SUNDAY CROSSWORD


CAB FJORD GETREAL YMA
ERR TOXIC OTHELLO EON
DOE WHYDIDTHELADYHAVE
ASTRONG VITAMINA ARIA
RETURNED MANET UMBER
STYNE PRES SOCIO
STASH ACLU SHALLOTS
PAC TENDENCYTOTALKIN
ESTIMATES HURT SLO
CHICANA SMILE SOW
AVERYLOWTONEWITHHER
SEA REAMS SEMINAR
AHA TALC MILESTONE
LIPSPARTLYCLOSED CDE
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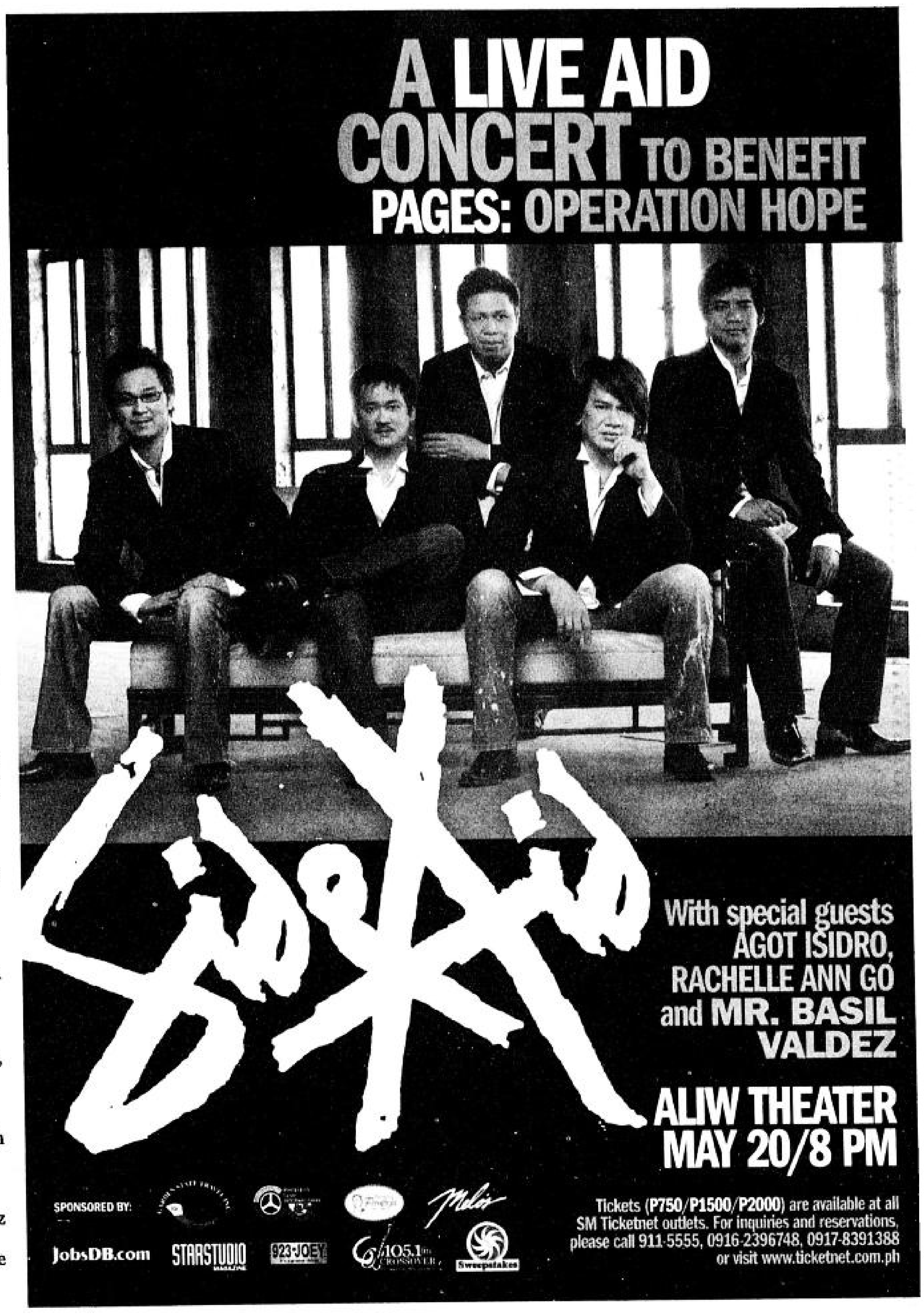
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MTRCB. PG-13
1.30, 4.20, 7.10, 10:00 LMF

2 POSEIDON
MTRCB. PG-13
1:00, 3:15, 5:30, 7:45, 10:00 LMF

3 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
MTRCB PG-13
12.00, 2:50, 5.40, 8:30 LMF

4 POSEIDON
MTRCB PG-13
12.00, 2:15, 4:30, 6.45, 9:00 LMF

PREMIERE THEATRE
THE WILD
MTRCB. GP
1.20, 3:15, 5.10, 7.05, 9.00 LMF

Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice.

Catch the Cineplex Special

Celebrate Mother's Day at the Shang with "The San Miguel Summer Music Festival at the Shangri-La Plaza" hosted by Maestro Ryan Cayabyab at the Grand Atrium, Level 2.
THE SAN MIGUEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA SATURDAY, MAY 13, 7 PM
THE SAN MIGUEL MASTER CHORALE WITH
THE SAN MIGUEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA
SUNDAY, MAY 14, 7 PM

Call 633-7851 loc 171 or 633-2227 for more details

Shangri-La Plaza

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City
E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Quezon City

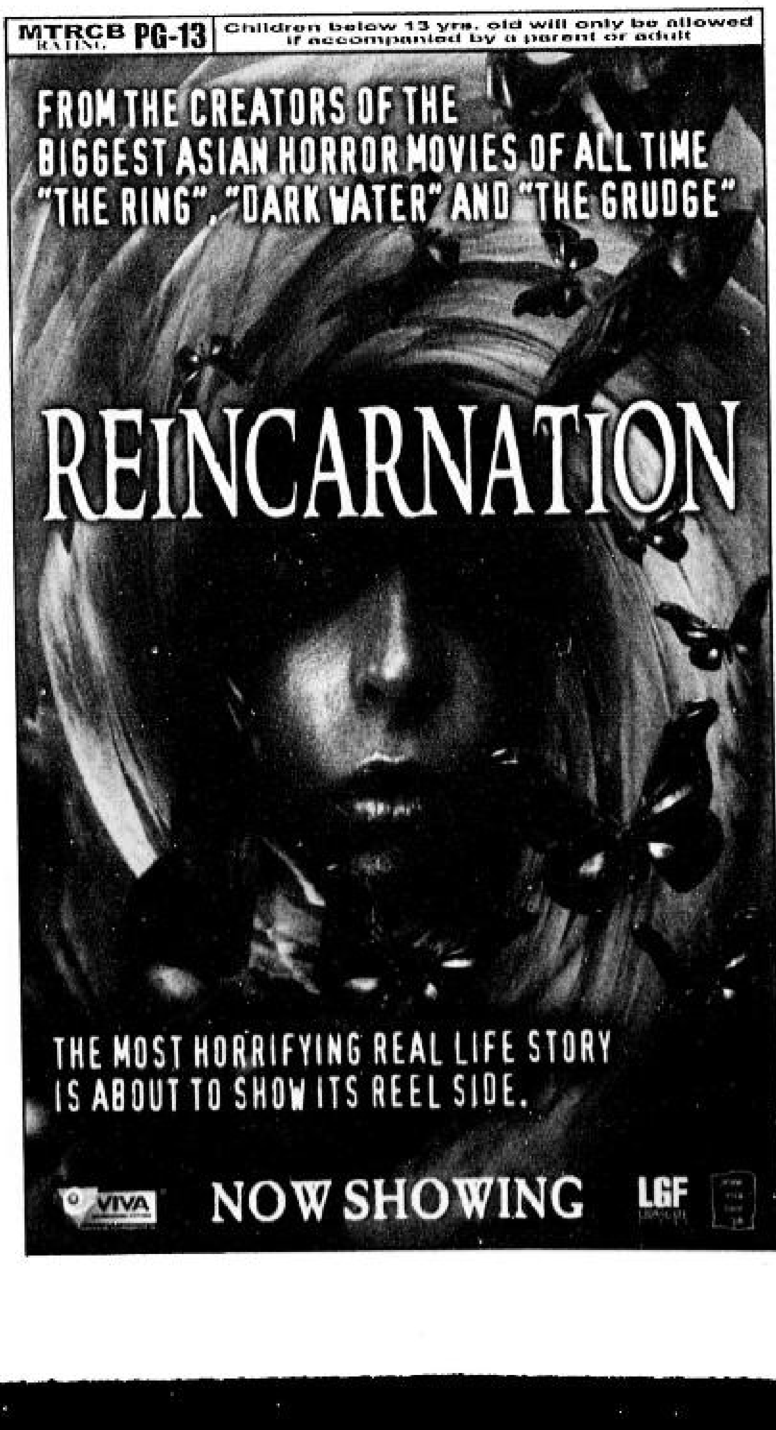
For inquiries, call:
687-6963
GUARANTEED SEATS
MOVIES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

1 POSEIDON
12:10, 2:35, 5:00, 7:25, 9:50
PG-13

2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
1:35, 4:30, 7:25, 10:30
PG-13

3 POSEIDON
12:50, 3:15, 5:40, 8:05, 10:30
PG-13

4 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
12:30, 3:20, 6:10, 9:10
PG-13


MTRCB RATING PG-13 Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult

FROM THE CREATORS OF THE BIGGEST ASIAN HORROR MOVIES OF ALL TIME "THE RING", "DARK WATER" AND "THE GRUDGE"

REINCARNATION

THE MOST HORRIFYING REAL LIFE STORY IS ABOUT TO SHOW ITS REEL SIDE.

VIVA NOW SHOWING LGF

GREENHILLS CINEMAS
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!

NOW SHOWING

1 POSEIDON
12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:20
PG13

2 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
10:50, 1:30, 4:10, 6:50, 9:30
PG13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND·EX

PROMENADE
GREENHILLS
...a destinetainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

3 POSEIDON
10:30, 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10
PG13

4 POSEIDON
11:10, 1:30, 3:50, 6:10, 8:30, 10:50
PG13

5 MISSION IMPOSSIBLE 3
11:45, 2:30, 5:10, 7:50, 10:30
PG13

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

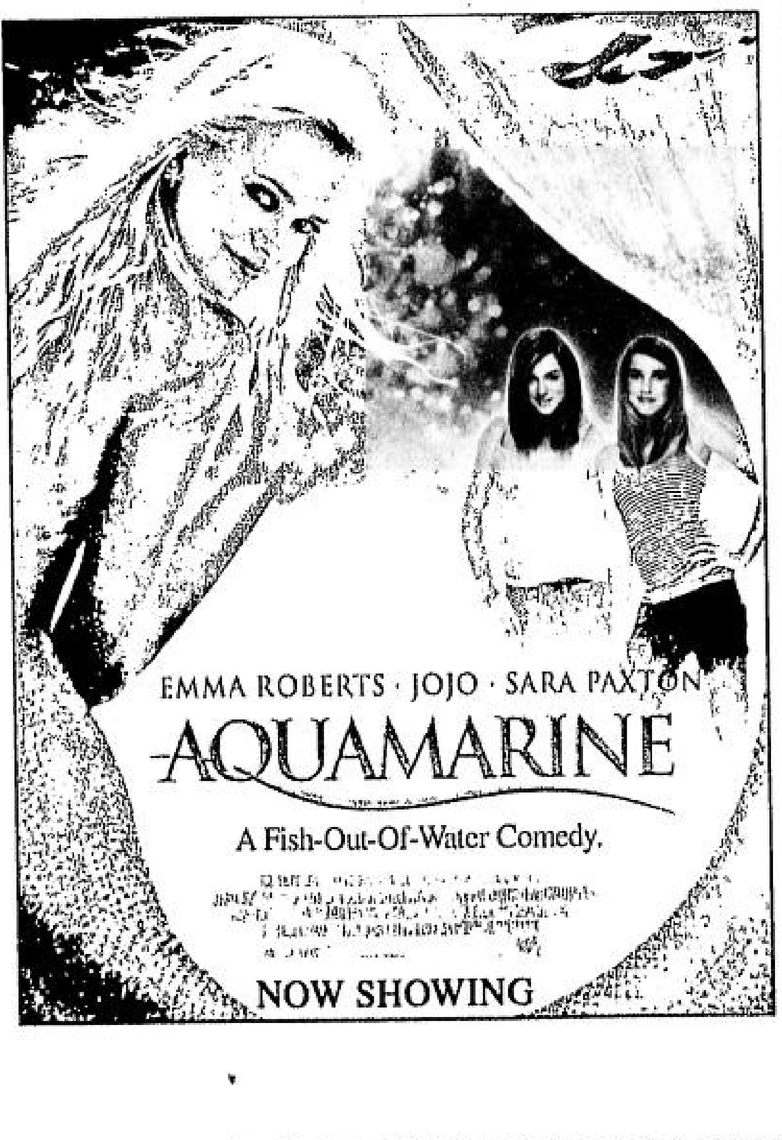
MUSIC MUSEUM

MAY 15, 2006	JENNYLYN MERCADO	8:00PM
May 27, 2006	ERIK MANA	9:00PM

PROMENADE GREENHILLS

EVERY MONDAY	DANCE NIGHT	7:00PM
MAY 26 & 27 2006	WERE STILL HOT "THE MUSICAL" FOR INQUIRIES PLS CALL 722-4532 LOC.116	8:00PM

FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS. CALL : 721-6726 OR 721-0635


EMMA ROBERTS · JOJO · SARA PAXTON
AQUAMARINE
A Fish-Out-Of-Water Comedy.
NOW SHOWING

NOKIA
Voice Txt received.
Introducing, another first from SMART.
SMART
Voice TXT

Ngayon, ang text mo may voice na. ₱2.50 lang!

Just dial ***899 (cel number)**

IT'S SO EASY!

1. **Dial *899 + recipient's 11-digit cel number.**
2. **Record your message after the voice prompt.**
3. **End call. ***

* A confirmation alert will be sent to inform the sender that the message was heard.

TO FORWARD

To forward the Voice Txt you received, send to 899+recipient's no. (e.g., 89909201234567)

Voice TXT is 30 seconds only.
First retrieval is FREE.
Succeeding retrieval of same message is P1.00 each.

Available to:

Buddy SMART GOLD

SMART
Simply Amazing!

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111; *888 using your SMART celfone; the SMART Corporate Hotline at #888; send a text message to 888 (Standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation applies), e-mail us at customercare@smart.com.ph, visit our website at www.smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

ENTERTAINMENT

E-mail: pr_entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback:
Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to
2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

SO WE LOST the game... so what? Long-time sweethearts Borgy Manotoc and model Ornusa Cadness demonstrate how not to win at beach volleyball and still stay cool. And still stay hot. Whatever. More in Rushes, A3/2. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

All the movies you want to see on the big screen
NOW SHOWING at the Star Group of Malls

starmall EDSA · SHAW
Tel. No. 726 8160
1: Mission Impossible 3
2: Poseidon
3: Apoy sa Dibdib ng Samar

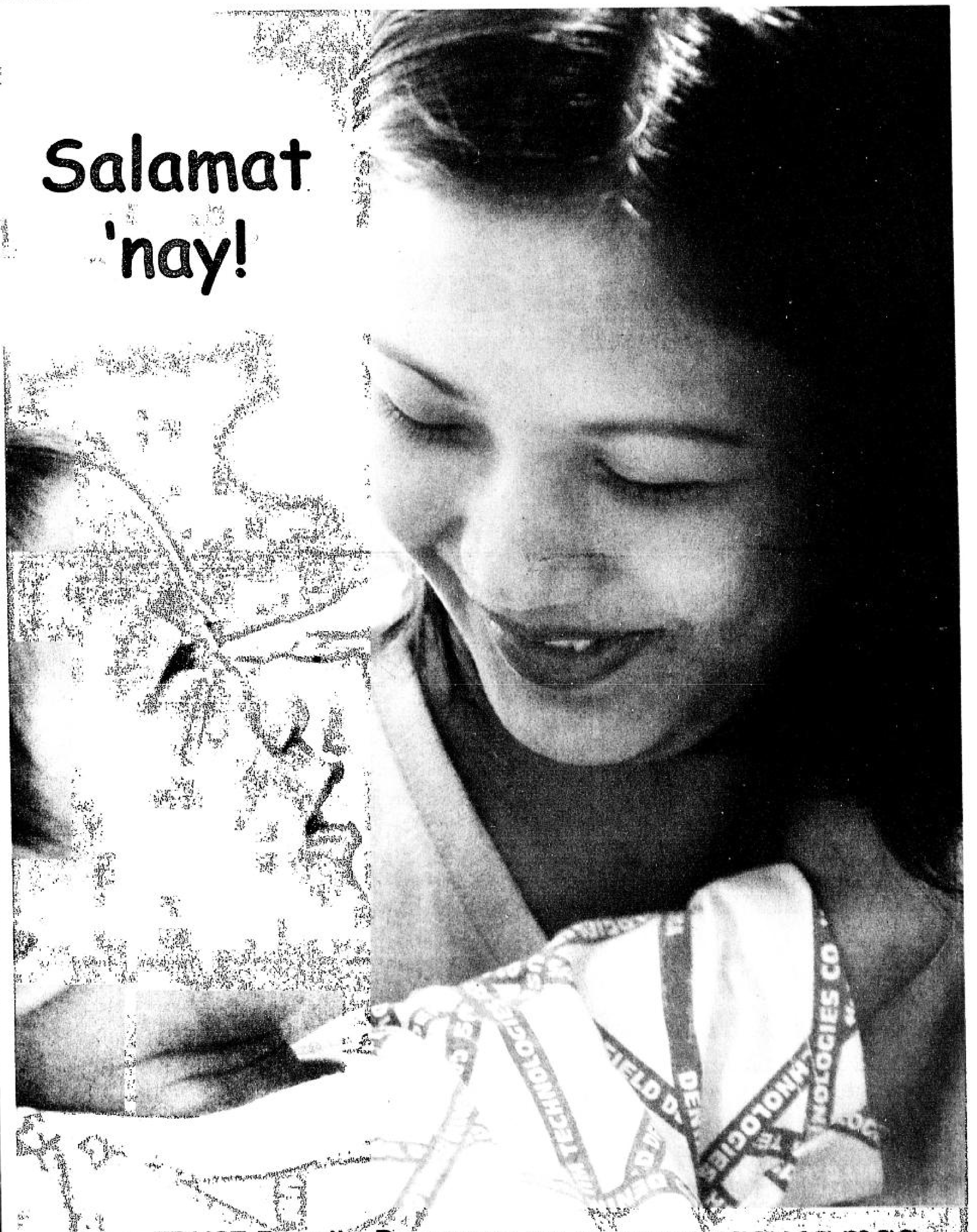
METROPOLIS STAR ALABANG
Tel No. 850 4285
1: Apoy sa Dibdib ng Samar
2: Silent Hill
3: Poseidon
4: Mission Impossible 3

Everyday Family Day at StarMalls!

Every Tuesdays Comedy Nights. Every Fridays Live Acoustic Bands at Cuba Libro Bar Starmall Edsa
Mondays Live Bands. Every Thursdays Comedy Nights at Mark's KTV Metropolis Star Alabang
3 DAY SALE (May 19-21) Ruby Rodriguez (May 20) Side A (May 27) Metropolis Star Alabang
Ruby Rodriguez (May 14) Christian Bautista Jennylyn Mercado (May 27) Starmall Edsa

For movie schedules log on to www.clickthecity.com

WHOSE SIDE WILL YOU BE ON?
MAKE YOUR CHOICE...
HUGH JACKMAN HALLE BERRY
X-MEN
THE LAST STAND
MAY 24
MARVEL
WWW.X-MENTHELASTSTAND.COM



Salamat 'nay!

Ang *TRUST Family Program* ay nagpupugay sa mga ina na nagsisilbing mundo ng kanilang pamilya.

Ikaw ang mundo ng iyong pamilya, kaya mahalaga ang iyong kalusugan.

Ang *TRUST Family Program* ay tumutulong mapangalagaan ang kalusugan ng mga ina at kanilang pamilya sa pamamagitan ng family planning.

Alamin ang tungkol sa *TRUST Family Program*, bumisita sa pinakamalapit na health clinic at kumunsulta sa inyong health provider, o maglog-on sa website o tumawag sa TFP hotline na nakasulat sa ibaba.

Para sa abot-kaya at kaledad na mga produkto, hanapin lamang ang *TRUST Family Program* logo.

TRUST Family Program Hotline: (02) 6333-TFP, Website: www.tfp.com.ph

TRUST FAMILY PROGRAM
Nagbibigay Buhay Sa Magandang Bukas

RUSHES Boracay bombshells

Team loses, couple celebrates

Borgy Manotoc and long-time girlfriend Ornusa Cadness would have escaped scrutiny altogether, had she picked a bikini top with more-than-half cups. That's according to an eyewitness who wasn't the least bit surprised that heads turned whenever and wherever she passed.

The two competed at the recently concluded Nestlé Beach Volleyball games on Boracay Island. Their team lost—but judging from these shots at right, snapped by INQUIRER photo chief Ernie Sarmiento, they're not sore losers. Not. At. All.

Beach-front view

MTV video jock and commercial model Cindy Kurleto and her companion reportedly rented the beach-front suite on the second floor of Crystal Sand.

How the Babe boards

Viva Hot Babe Jennifer Lee was the last person to board a SeaAir craft bound for Manila on Sunday. Lee's attention was called several times by the airport lounge attendant before she finally heeded and moved—18 minutes past boarding time.

Bar regulars

The INQUIRER source also spotted Lee's fellow Hot Babe Maui Taylor, who has been living on the island for almost a month. Locals said Taylor and Lee are regular performers at one of the swinging bars there.

Sam attack

Heartthrob Sam Milby was strolling by the shore near Station 2 when a mob of autograph-seekers "attacked" him.

Other quick sightings

Also spotted on the island were Brad Turvey, Tisha Silang, KC Montero, Mark Abaya and "Wazzup Wazzup" segment host Jaja Bolivar.

Ssssshowdown

Christina Aguilera will take center stage at this year's MTV Movie Awards. The event, hosted by Jessica Alba, will be filmed June 3 at Sony Picture Studios in California. Presenters include Kate Beckinsale and Kate Bosworth.

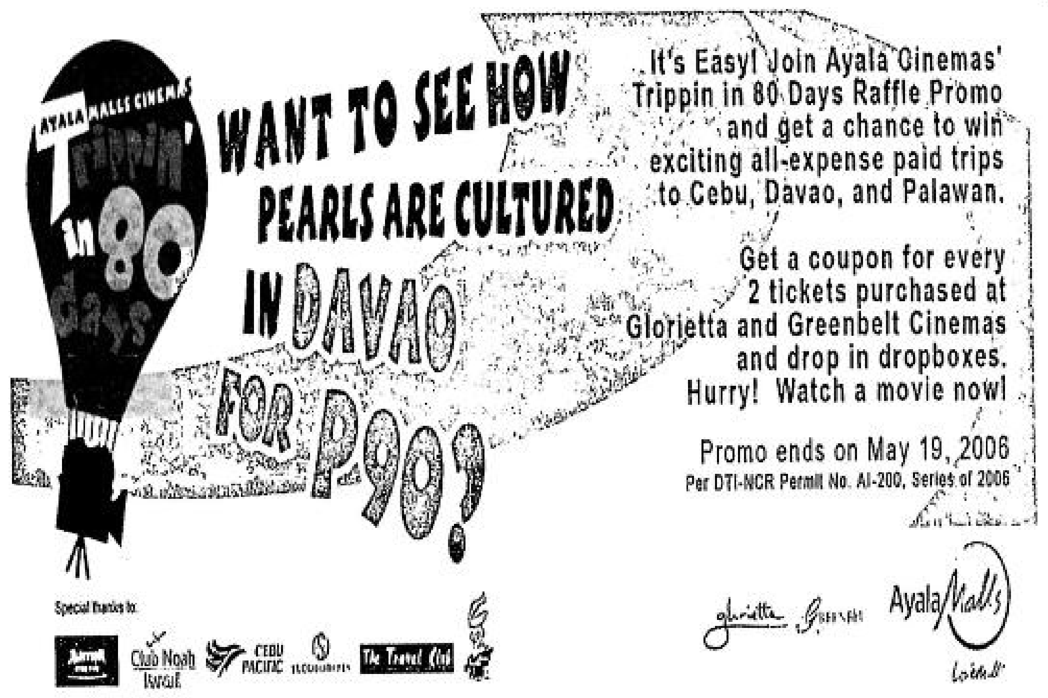
Sexiest pensioner

Agence France Presse reports that former James Bond actor Sean Connery, 75, was voted Britain's sexiest male... pensioner in a survey by finance firm Virgin Money.

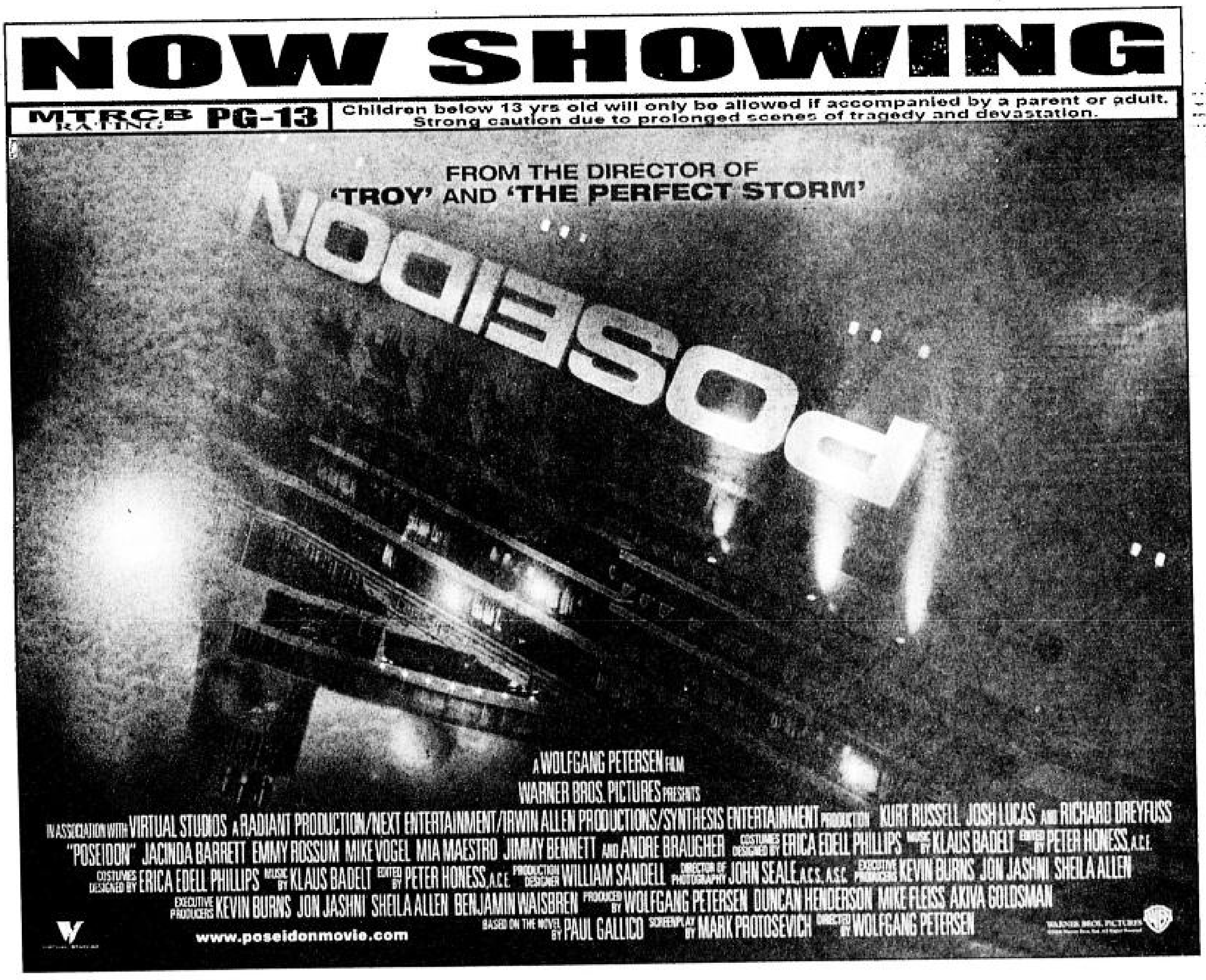
... and no one else

And the Associated Press says "American Idol" winner Fantasia Barrino, 21, will star as herself in a TV movie. Principal photography was to begin this month in New Orleans. The movie, which has the working title, "Life Is Not a Fairy Tale: the Fantasia Barrino Story," is set to premiere in August as a Lifetime Original Movie.

TAYLOR in Boracay, not Maui


AYALA MALLS CINEMAS Trippin' in 80 days
WANT TO SEE HOW PEARLS ARE CULTURED IN DAVAO FOR P90?
It's Easy! Join Ayala Cinemas' Trippin in 80 Days Raffle Promo and get a chance to win exciting all-expense paid trips to Cebu, Davao, and Palawan.
Get a coupon for every 2 tickets purchased at Glorietta and Greenbelt Cinemas and drop in dropboxes. Hurry! Watch a movie now!
Promo ends on May 19, 2006
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. AI-200, Series of 2006
Special thanks to:
Club Noah Isabelle
CEBU PACIFIC
The Travel Club
glorietta Greenbelt Ayala Malls

THE #1 MOVIE IN AMERICA!
DAHLIA
The MINER
The DARK NURSES
The JANITOR
The GREY CHILD
The RED PYRAMID
3RD WEEK
MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
SILENT HILL


NOW SHOWING
MTRCB RATING PG-13
Children below 13 yrs old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult. Strong caution due to prolonged scenes of tragedy and devastation.
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF 'TROY' AND 'THE PERFECT STORM'
POSEIDON
A WOLFGANG PETERSEN FILM
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS
IN ASSOCIATION WITH VIRTUAL STUDIOS A RADIANT PRODUCTION/NEXT ENTERTAINMENT/IRWIN ALLEN PRODUCTIONS/SYNTHESIS ENTERTAINMENT PRODUCTION KURT RUSSELL JOSH LUCAS AND RICHARD DREYFUSS
"POSEIDON" JACINDA BARRETT EMMY ROSSUM MIKE VOGEL MIA MAESTRO JIMMY BENNETT AND ANDRE BRAUGHER COSTUMES DESIGNED BY ERICA EDELL PHILLIPS MUSIC BY KLAUS BADELT EDITED BY PETER HONESS, A.C.E.
COSTUMES DESIGNED BY ERICA EDELL PHILLIPS MUSIC BY KLAUS BADELT EDITED BY PETER HONESS, A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNER WILLIAM SANDELL DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY JOHN SEALE, A.C.S., A.S.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS KEVIN BURNS JON JASHNI SHEILA ALLEN
EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS KEVIN BURNS JON JASHNI SHEILA ALLEN BENJAMIN WAISBREN PRODUCED BY WOLFGANG PETERSEN DUNCAN HENDERSON MIKE FLEISS AKIVA GOLDSMAN
BASED ON THE NOVEL BY PAUL GALLICO SCREENPLAY BY MARK PROTOSEVICH DIRECTED BY WOLFGANG PETERSEN
www.poseidonmovie.com
WARNER BROS. PICTURES

WHICH WOMAN COMPLETES THE IMPOSSIBLE MISSION?
TOM CRUISE
M:i:III
MICHELLE MONAGHAN MAGGIE Q KERI RUSSELL
MissionImpossible.com
2ND BLOCKBUSTER WEEK!
Distributed by Solar Entertainment Corporation
MTRCB RATING PG-13

From the creators of SHREK and MADAGASCAR
DREAMWORKS
BRUCE WILLIS GARY SHANDLING STEVE CARELL WILLIAM SHATNER WANDA SYKES NICK NOLTE
OVER THE HEDGE
Talking back the neighborhood.
IN THEATERS MAY 19

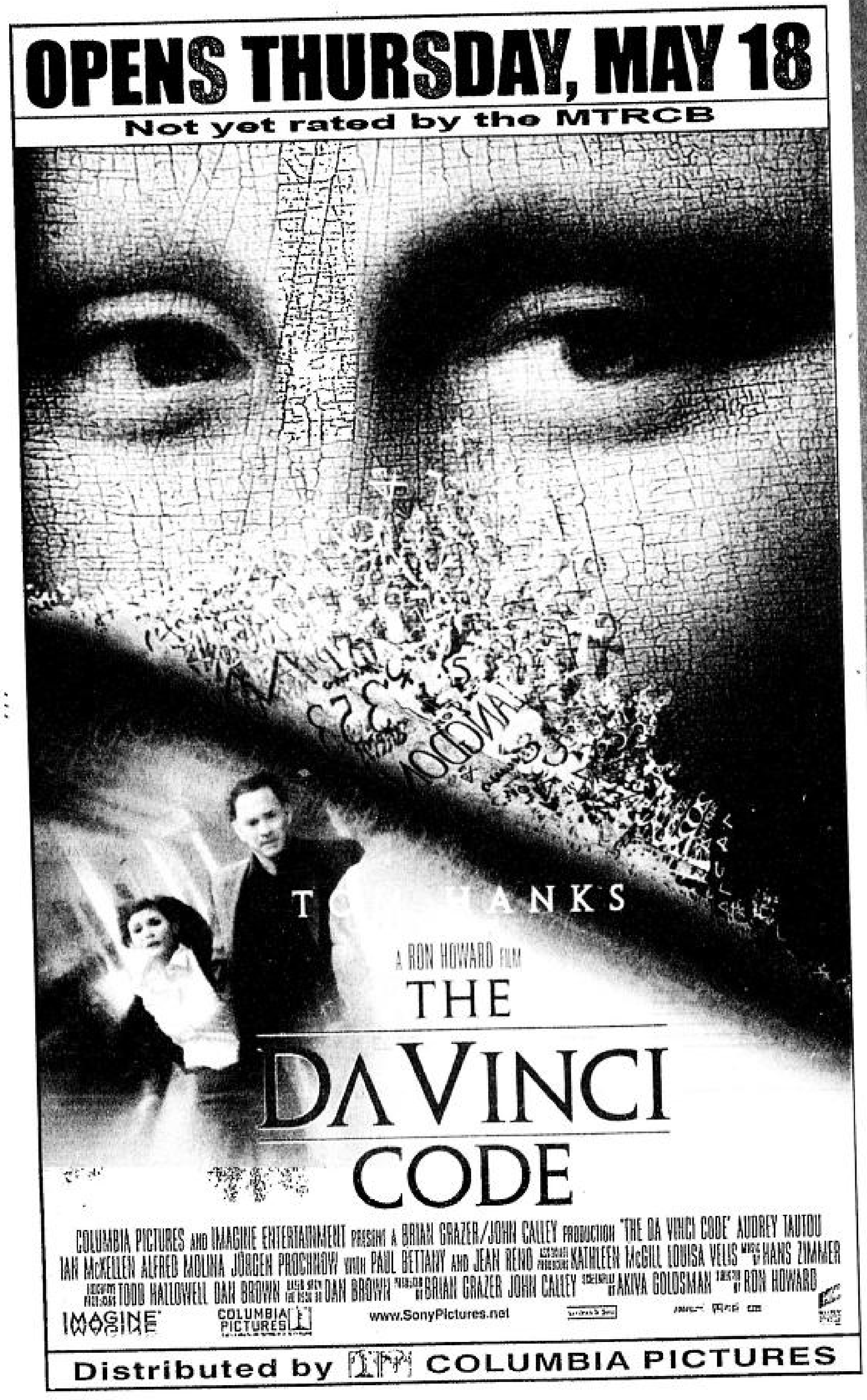
Boy Abunda: 'Nay, you make me laugh; you're the best

BOY with Nanay Lesing. He loves "golden moments" campaign.

MOTHERHOOD IS THE ROOT WORD FOR goodness," says celebrity talk show host Boy Abunda.

Boy hosted "Surf Nay Ur D Best: Parangal sa mga Reyna ng Gintong Sandali" a Mother's Day celebration, yesterday at the CCP grounds in Pasay City. The event kicked off a campaign to cherish golden moments with moms.

"I like this campaign," Boy said. "I hope everybody gets the message." Even as an adult, Boy cherishes moments with his Nanay Lesing. He explained: "She makes me laugh."



OPENS THURSDAY, MAY 18
Not yet rated by the MTRCB
TOM HANKS
A RON HOWARD FILM
THE DA VINCI CODE
COLUMBIA PICTURES AND IMAGINE ENTERTAINMENT PRESENT A BRIAN GRAZER/JOHN CALLEY PRODUCTION "THE DA VINCI CODE" AUDREY TAUTOU IAN McKELLEN ALFRED MOLINA JÜRGEN PROCHNOW WITH PAUL BETTANY AND JEAN RENO ASSOCIATE PRODUCERS KATHLEEN McGILL LOUISA VELIS MUSIC BY HANS ZIMMER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS TODD HALLOWELL DAN BROWN BASED UPON THE BOOK BY DAN BROWN PRODUCED BY BRIAN GRAZER JOHN CALLEY SCREENPLAY BY AKIVA GOLDSMAN DIRECTED BY RON HOWARD
IMAGINE COLUMBIA PICTURES www.SonyPictures.net
Distributed by COLUMBIA PICTURES

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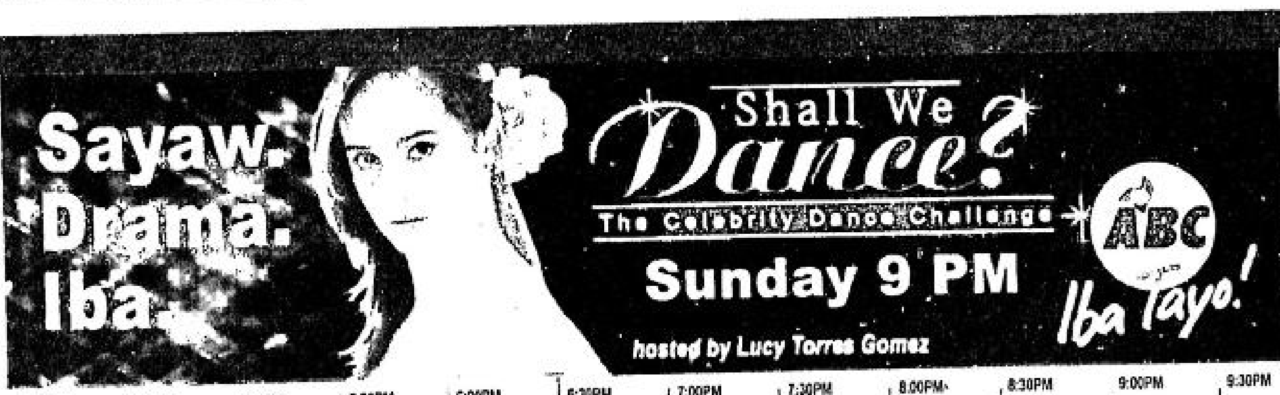
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER TV GUIDE

Sunday May 14, 2006



Sayaw. Drama. Iba.
Shall We Dance? The Celebrity Dance Challenge
Sunday 9 PM
hosted by Lucy Torres Gomez
ABC Iba Tayo!
ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		Ringside TV		PBA										Shall We Dance?		Blue			
ABS-CBN 2	Your Song	SCQ Kids			The Buzz				Goin' Bulilit		Rated K Mundo Magic Singapore		TV Patrol World	Sharon	Pinoy Big Brother	Trip Na Trip			
AXN		Panic Room					Samsung Sports World	AXN Shakedown		Gamemax (Season II)		Sports Disaster IV		CSI: Crime Scene Investigation (Season 6)		CSI NY (Season 2)		CSI Miami (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	Powerpuff Girls	Foster's Home For Imaginary Friends	Tom & Jerry Show	Pet Alien	Coconut Fred's Fruit Salad Island	Camp Lazlo	The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Courage The Cowardly Dog			The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	The Simpsons		Battle B-Daman	Power Rangers Dino Thunder	Justice League Unlimited	Aqua Teen Hunger Force Sealab 2021
Cinema One				Ang Tanging Ina				Kay Tagal Kang Hinintay				D' Anothers				Dekada 70			
Cinemax				Don't Talk To Strangers			The Snow Walker				Locusts			The Italian Job				Quick Change (10:50PM)	
CNN		World News	Revealed	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	World News	CNN Business Traveler	World News	World Sport	Talk Asia	Revealed	World News	The Daily Show Jon Stewart	Late Edition Live	
Crime/Suspense		Law & Order Criminal Content		Law & Order		Law & Order Criminal Content		Law & Order Special Victims Unit		What Should You Do?		Cold Case		Law & Order Criminal Content		Surface		Dominick Dunne's Power, Privilege & Justice	
Discovery Channel		Beyond Tomorrow		American Chopper		Giant Of The Skies		Mythbusters		Hour Asia		Hour China		Conspiracies On Trial		Spear Of Jesus		Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Lizzie Mcguire	Totally Spies-Double Episodes		Mr. Bean	Lilo & Stitch	American Dragon Adv in Troll Sitting	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	Phil Of The Future	The Proud Family		The Proud Family			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Kim Possible	Martin Mystery	An American Tail	
ESPN		Asian X Games '06 - Day 3						Lpga Golf Michelob Ultra Open				Pool Snooker World Pool League '05 Poland		Major League Baseball Sd Mariners @ Angels					
ETC		Saturday Night Live		Rated Oh! 4	Insider Weekend	American Dreams 3		One Tree Hill 3		America's Next Top Model 4		Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		Project Runway		Nip/ Tuck 3		Rated Oh! 4	Insider Weekend
ETC 2nd Avenue		Blowout 2		Today Show - 1 Hour - Version		Dateline		Cold Turkey		NBC Nightly News	WSJR	The Biggest Loser		The Director		West Wing		NBC Nightly News	Hollywood One On One
EWTN	Defending Life	Chaplet Of Mercy/ Angelus	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavio Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Images of Mary	Sunday Mass Live			The World Over Encore		Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		Big Story Weekend Edition		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live			
GMA 7	Gigslors	Love To Love		S-Files				Mahiwagang Baul		Kakabakaba-boo		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel			The Great Mom Swap			Virtual Mom				Just Cause		Child Of Our Time 2001		Sunday Premiere			Back To You And Me		
HBO	Miss Congeniality 2 Armed And Fabulous				Lover Boy (4:45 PM)				Mean Girls			Fear			Exorcist: The Beginning				Criminal
Hero TV	Machine Robo-Rescue	Dear Boys	GPX Cyber Formula	Baki The Grappler	Zenki	Super Yoyo	Ragnarok	Musumet	The Slayers	Baron One	Babel II	Mars, The Terminator	Hero TV Theatrixx	Dragons	Fire & Ice	Machine Robo-Rescue	Dear Boys	Zenki	Baki The Grappler
IBC 13		Balitaan Sa Barangay Patrol				Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		Pinoy Action Hits				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
JackTV	Everybody Hate Chris	Arrested Development	Always Sunny In Philadelphia	Family Guy	Jack Yard	Afterburn		Smackdown				Jack In The Box				Trigger Happy TV	Dr. Katz	Comedy Central Presents	Premium Blend
Lifestyle Network		Smart Solutions	Country Style	Your Private Island	Fine Living Special		Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Wolfgang Puck	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special		Passage To Destiny				Fashion Trance	
MTV Philippines	Ultrasound Gary V.	Massive	MTV News	MI-3 Diary of Tom Cruise	Homecoming	Laguna Beach		Pimp My Ride		PunkD		Sex Ed on the Beach		VH1's 25 Greatest Power Ballads		MTV Summer Moments	MTV Hits	MTV Screen	Sessions: Gary V.
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	Star MYX	OPM MYX	Pop MYX	MYX Presents			MYX Hit Chart			MYX Backtrax	MYXLOG
National Geographic		Planet Football World Cup Cities #1	Planet Football World Cup Cities #2	Explorations Powered By Duracell	Rough Trades	Best of the Week: Killer Asteroids		MegaStructures: North Sea Wall		Explorations Powered By Duracell	Rough Trades	Mega Structures: North Sea Wall		Best of the Week: The Kung Fu Dragons of Wudang		Nat Geo Investigates: Air Crash Investigation		Nat Geo Investigates: [illegible]	
NBN		Tinig ng Bayan (Sining Gising)						Tinig ng Bayan (Live)		Congress in Action		Corporate Business League		The Sports List		Pilipinas Ngayon Na!		The Working President	Career Zone With Special Event From Malacañang
Nickelodeon	Drake & Josh	SpongeBob SquarePants	Trollz	The Fairly Odd Parents	Catscratch	Avatar The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Zoey 101	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Dark Oracle	Unfabulous	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	As Told By Ginger	Girls In Love	The Brothers Garcia	The Amanda Show	My Dad The Rock Star	
PBO			Working Girls		Judge Max Asuncion Hukom Bitay				[illegible] Toolpack				Martin Forever				[illegible]		
Qtv		Lois And Clark		Kaleido Star		Bongga Ka Star		Ang Pinaka...		Pop Star Kids		May Trabaho Ka		Sunday Super Sine				Groupee TV	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Fistorama		Global Window	WWE Smackdown		JAG		Navy NCIS		Without A Trace		NBA On RPN					The Working President
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy		Shepherds Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng [illegible]		Gabay At Akayan			
Solar Sports				2006 ABC Finals, Wmn's Dbls		GWS 19-2006	NBA Jam	2006 NBA Playoffs Conf. Semis					Sunday Sunblast STARS of the FUTURE Cebu City						
Star Movies				If Only (4:05 PM)			Chain Reaction (5:45 PM)				Garfield The Movie (7:35 PM)			Agent Cody Banks 2: Destination London			Commando (10:40PM)		
Star World		Scrubs	Arrested Development	North Shore		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Smallville/The Apprentice (Series 4)		Malcolm In The Middle	The Simpsons	Oprah Prime Time		The Scholar		Coupling		Malcolm In The Middle	Oprah Prime Time
Studio 23				PBL Unity Cup Game 2		Exposed					Y Speak Live		US Girls	Desperate Housewives		Diana Tour (10:15PM)	Tru Calling (10:45PM)		Angel

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

ANG PINAGKAKATIWALAANG NEWS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS PROGRAMS

ANG MAS PINANONOOD

PERFORMANCE RATING-AVERAGE · WEEKNIGHTS · APRIL 2006

PRIMETIME NEWSCAST

		RTG% TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
24 ORAS	GMA	25.5
TV PATROL WORLD	ABS-CBN	20.3

LATE NIGHT NEWSCAST

		RTG% TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
SAKSI LIGA NG KATOTOHANAN	GMA	9.6
INSIDER	ABS-CBN	5.3

	PROGRAMS		RTG% TOTAL HOUSEHOLDS
MONDAY	I-WITNESS	GMA	8.5
	CORRESPONDENTS	ABS-CBN	3.7
TUESDAY	REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK	GMA	6.8
	PIPOL	ABS-CBN	4.3
WEDNESDAY	PINOY ABROAD	GMA	6.7
	PAYONG KAPATID	ABS-CBN	2.6
THURSDAY	DEBATE	GMA	4.0
	PROBE	ABS-CBN	2.4
FRIDAY	EMERGENCY	GMA	5.1
	KONTROBERSYAL	ABS-CBN	3.6
SATURDAY	KAPUSO MO, JESSICA SOHO	GMA	28.9
	TV PATROL SABADO	ABS-CBN	16.5
	IMBESTIGADOR	GMA	25.3
	XXX	ABS-CBN	19.7

BASED ON AGBNMR MEGA MANILA TV HH DATA, SPECIALS AND HOLY WEEK EPISODES (APR 13-15) EXCLUDED

MARAMING SALAMAT PO SA PANANATILI NAMING
NO. 1 SA INYONG PUSO AT TIWALA!

GMA NEWS & PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Serbisyong Totoo

GMA

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Website: www.inq7money.net

Sunday BIZ

Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart) E-mail: pr_business@inquirer.com.ph

IT execs let their hair down

CRAIG REINES, general manager and vice president, TeleTech

NILO CRUZ, managing director, HP Philippines

For one night only, they chose the ramp

By Abigail L. Ho

ON AN ORDINARY WORK day, they are usually seen in "power" suits—dark pants and blazers, light colored long-sleeved shirts, neckties and leather shoes for men, coordinated ensembles and high-heeled pumps for women.

But on one memorable night, eight executives from some of the country's top IT and telecom firms dressed down and surprised more than 200 members of the information and communications technology (ICT) industry with how good they looked in "un-stiff" outfits.

The Information Technology Journalists Association of the Philippines (a.k.a. CyberPress), the country's pioneering organization of journalists covering the technology beat, celebrated its 10th anniversary with an Executive Fashion Show, highlighting the group's Appreciation Night last April 28.

While some of the participants in the show were first-timers on the ramp, some had some modeling experience, having done a few similar shows in the past, endorsed some clothing labels, and even tried out print and TV ad modeling in their youth.

That night's experience was nevertheless the same for all of them, first-timer or not.

Sun Microsystems Philippines Inc. president and managing director Cynthia Mamon, who sported a jewel green striped top from Paper Dolls, yellow cardigan from Candy, her own purple velvet pants and peep-toe shoes, admitted to being a bit reluctant to wear what the show's stylist picked out for her.

"At first, I was hesitant to wear the funky costume they wanted me to wear as I am not used to rugged, colorful clothes. But not wanting to be a 'killjoy,' I cooperated. Hey, it was fun and cool after all," she said.

Freelance stylist GR Diaz said she had quite a hard time convincing Mamon to wear the furry red beret that completed her look.

But after much coaxing and reassuring that she looked OK, she finally agreed.

And the crowd loved it.

HP country managing director Nilo Cruz, Globe-Quest head Jesus "Boboy" Romero and TeleTech general manager and vice president for Philippine operations Craig Reines also sported funky headgear, eliciting screams of delight and hearty applause from the crowd.

Cruz shed his serious aura during his few seconds on the ramp as he playfully strutted his stuff, donning a yellow shirt from Wrangler, a mint green striped polo from Dickies, a pair of brown linen drawstring pants from Obra Ni Juan, his own sneakers, and a plaid bowler hat.

Romero, while relatively jovial even during

IT EXECS/ B2

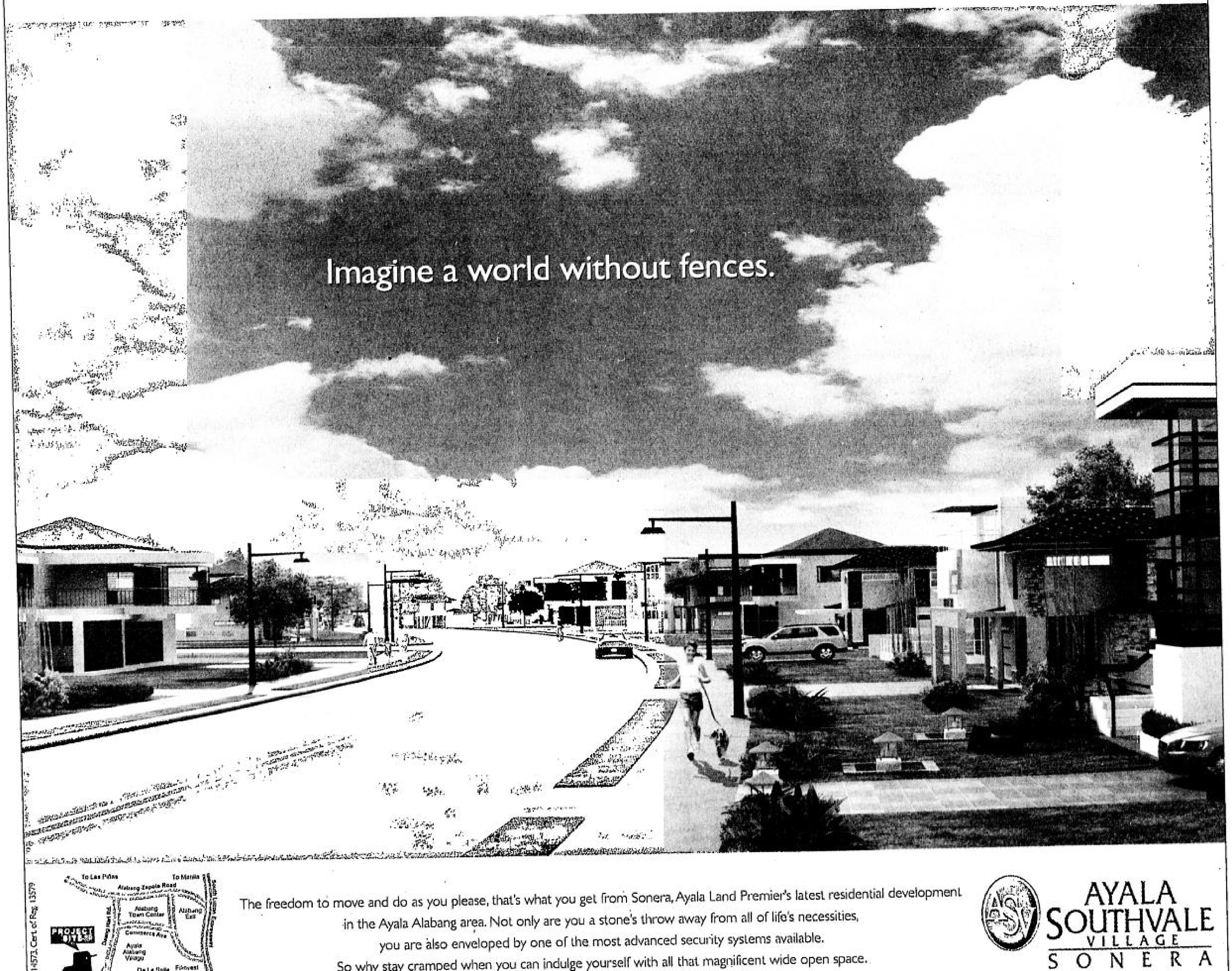
CYBERPRESS reporters who went corporate side by side with the new "models" of the business world.

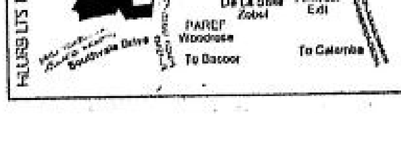
KARRIE ILAGAN, marketing director, Microsoft Philippines Corp.

BUTCH JIMENEZ, Smart Communication Inc.

BOBOY ROMERO, Innove Communications Inc.

AyalaLand PREMIER





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Couple seizes the day to push family business

Text and Photos by Russell Arador
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—SEIZE THE DAY.

For the husband-and-wife team of entrepreneurs Rolando and Rowena de Leon, their adherence to this maxim has paid off.

From a few pieces of shirts and pants sold from a plastic bag more than 10 years ago, the couple's business, Real Choice Variety, has grown into a more than 200-square-meter store with thousands of items in its inventory and an army of salespeople peddling them.

Real Choice Variety
NO PARKING
Equitable PCI

THE 200-SQ.M. store along Tarlac City's main business thoroughfare is a measure of the inspiring success of Rolando and Rowena de Leon as entrepreneurs.

It all began when Rowena, then a 22-year-old elementary school teacher, made the first of a series of courageous decisions.

In 1990, Rowena was a teacher in a private elementary school earning P2,000 a month. To augment her income, she worked as a tutor to a number of children of Chinese-Filipino families.

She later quit her job and accepted more tutorial jobs.

Her income tripled and she remained a tutor for four years.

Her entrepreneurial break came one day in 1994 when the mother of one of her students, a Filipino-Chinese businesswoman who had just arrived from Hong Kong, gave her several pieces of pants and shirts to sell.

Not wanting to disappoint her, Rowena took the items and stuffed them in a plastic bag.

She had no plans of selling them, so she left the bag for safekeeping in a store in front of her grandmother's house, where she was staying.

The house was near a jeepney terminal and, soon enough, a group of drivers saw the items in her bag, and promptly bought them all.

Her story did not end there.

More orders came, prompting her and Rolando, whom she met in a Born Again Christian gathering in 1987 and married in 2002, to commute to Baclaran to buy more items.

Motivated by the unexpected success of her initial foray into the buy-and-sell business, she turned her grandmother's house into a display center for her products.

In 1994, Rowena and Rolando found themselves going to Metro Manila twice a week to buy P3,000 worth of items. The next year, emboldened by brisk sales, she moved to a 35-square-meter store at Juan Luna and Ancheta Streets here, several meters from the old public market.

Here her luck held, with sales from walk-in customers doubled or tripled by sales made by about 20 dealers, some of them teachers.

In 1996, Rowena came to a crossroads when she was offered a teaching job.

ROWENA and Rolando de Leon

A regular job, she thought then, would give her a modest but steady and hassle-free income.

She was all set to accept the offer but her husband dissuaded her from going back to teaching.

Rolando urged her instead to continue with the business.

He said that if she was having difficulties managing it alone, then he would be willing to help.

This cemented not only their friendship but their relationship as business partners as well.

Business continued to prosper and in 2000, Real Choice Variety again moved to another location on Rizal Street, which was closer to the old public market.

In August last year, despite telltale signs of economic hardships, Real Choice Variety occupied the top half of a two-story building structure on F. Tañedo Street at the heart of the city.

With a floor area of more than 200 square meters, rent was expensive. It was a risky move as it turned out. Sales went down by 30 percent because of the competition and the poor economy, and their overhead costs grew.

But "there's no quitting," said Rolando, 55. Rowena agreed but said she still worries.

Despite these worries, however, the couple said they have decided to hang on and take advantage of every opportunity to expand.

"We were in this business first, and we are banking on that," they said.

IT execs let . . .

From page B1

serious press conferences, showed that he had an even more playful side as he wowed the crowd in a striped red sport shirt and black jacket from Arrow, blue jeans, gray walking shoes, and a very hip-hop black bonnet.

Reines was also a revelation, making quite an impression when he confidently worked the runway in a dark brown crumpled linen shirt from Obra Ni Juan, mocha corduroy pants from Pisanti, his own brown sandals and a cowboy hat.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

THE LADY execs

"I've never done this before. I really enjoyed the night and the attention. I liked the clothes I modeled so much that I bought them from the organizers!" he said.

Girl power

IBM Philippines software group country manager Faire Ann Co and Microsoft Corp. marketing director Karrie Ilagan showed subdued yet playful elegance in their white outfits.

A white spaghetti-strap linen top with sequins from Candy and white linen pants complemented Co's sun-kissed complexion, with a pink flower tucked on her right ear completing her summer look.

"I had so much fun! It was a real welcome change to what we do every day," Co said.

The feather boa-wielding Ilagan, in a white long-sleeved boatman top and blue jeans, also looked very comfortable on the ramp. Her secret, as she very candidly revealed shortly before the show: a couple of glasses of beer.

Rose Montenegro, senior vice president for the Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co.'s call center group, did not need a confidence booster that night, although she did admit to being quite nervous before going on stage.

As she put it: "Corporate life is less intimidating."

And this coming from a woman who had dabbled in print and TV ad modeling in her youth and had a model and actor for a son, now ABC-5 Television Network human resources director, Hans Montenegro.

Dressed in her own red long-sleeved top, beaded dark jeans, and pointy-toed shoes, one would not know how she nervously prayed she would not stumble on the ramp as she confidently worked her magic on stage, complete with a glittery harlequin mask.

For friendship's sake

Butch Jimenez, PLDT retail business group head and Smart Communications Inc. wireless consumer division head, was cool and collected on the ramp in his dark brown Kenneth Cole hoodie and dark Hugo Boss jeans.

And why not? That was not his first time as he had done quite a few fashion shows in the past. He is also currently endorsing local brand Memo and high-end label Hugo Boss.

But this was not to say that the CyberPress Executive Fashion Show was just one of those all-in-a-day's-work type of thing for him.

"Some things you do for money, some you do for fun," he said. "This one I did for friends."

Philippine National Bank

NOTICE OF ANNUAL STOCKHOLDERS' MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Meeting of Stockholders of the Philippine National Bank will be held on May 30, 2006 at 8:00 a.m. at the Ballroom, Upper Lobby, Century Park Hotel, 599 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St., Malate, Manila.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Secretary's Proof of Notice and Quorum
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2005 Annual Stockholders' Meeting held on May 24, 2005
4. Report of the President on the Results of Operations for the Year 2005
5. Approval of the 2005 Annual Report
6. Approval of the Amendment to the Amended By-Laws (transfer of the position, powers and duties of the Chairman of the Board in Sections 6.1 and 6.3, Article VI captioned "Officers" to Section 5.4, Article V captioned "Board of Directors")
7. Ratification of All Acts, Resolutions and Proceedings of the Board of Directors and Corporate Officers since the 2005 Annual Stockholders' Meeting
8. Election of Directors
9. Appointment of External Auditor
10. Other Matters
11. Adjournment

Minutes of the 2005 Annual Stockholders' Meeting as well as resolutions of the Board of Directors from May 25, 2005 will be available for examination during office hours at the Office of the Corporate Secretary.

Only stockholders of record as of May 2, 2006 will be entitled to notice and vote at this meeting. Registration will begin at 6:00 a.m.

If you cannot personally attend the meeting, you may designate your authorized representative by submitting a PROXY to the Office of the Corporate Secretary not later than 5:00 p.m. on May 25, 2006, Any proxies so received will be validated on May 26, 2006, 9:30 a.m., at the Office of the Stock Transfer Agent at Allied Bank Center, 6754 Ayala Avenue, Makati City.

Pasay City, March 24, 2006

RENATO J. FERNANDEZ
Corporate Secretary

PNB
ASSET MANAGEMENT SECTOR
We manage for best value.

PUBLIC AUCTION

MAY 31, 2006 • WEDNESDAY • 2:00 PM • PENTHOUSE, B.A. LEPANTO BLDG., Paseo de Roxas, Makati City

ANTIPOLO CITY

LOT 1 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 1,912 sqm. F.A.: 514 sqm.
Lot 11 Don Celso S. Tuazon Rd., Valley Golf Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 6,556,000.00

LOT 2 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 241 sqm. F.A.: 57 sqm.
Lot 28 Blk 30 Cogeo Vill. Bagong Nayon
Minimum Bid Price : 765,000.00

LOT 3 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 120 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 47, Road 22, Cogeo Vill. Antipolo City
Minimum Bid Price : 1,192,000.00

LOT 4 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 482 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 2 Parkridge Estate Ph. 5, Sta Cruz
Minimum Bid Price : 1,466,000.00

LOT 5 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 478 sqm.
Lot 23 Blk 3 Parkridge Estate Ph. 5, Sta Cruz
Minimum Bid Price : 1,363,000.00

CALOOCAN

LOT 6 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 287 sqm. F.A.: 30 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 9, Gujo Street, Silanganan Subdivision, Llano
Minimum Bid Price : 707,000.00

LOT 7 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 281 sqm. F.A.: 127 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 9, Gujo Street, Silanganan Subdivision
Minimum Bid Price : 1,023,000.00

LOT 8 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 30.50 sqm. F.A.: 60 sqm.
Lot 11-D/Blk 9, Gujo St., Silanganan Subd., Deparo
Minimum Bid Price : 392,000.00

LOT 9 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 24.20 sqm. F.A.: 46 sqm.
Lot 11-F/Blk 9, Gujo St., Silanganan Subd., Deparo
Minimum Bid Price : 287,000.00

LOT 10 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 300 sqm. F.A.: 166 sqm.
#289 Camarin Rd., Camarin
Minimum Bid Price : 2,559,000.00

LOT 11 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 120 sqm. F.A.: 55 sqm.
(Lot 17-B/Blk 354) 132 Binhagan St., San Jose
Minimum Bid Price : 1,829,000.00

LAS PIÑAS

LOT 12 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 63 sqm. F.A.: 52 sqm.
L7B10 Santan St., Camella Townhomes, Talon 3
Minimum Bid Price : 832,000.00

LOT 13 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 56 sqm. F.A.: 59 sqm.
Lot 15 Blk 1 Ch Woodsrow Townhomes 3, Aguilar Ave.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,169,000.00

LOT 14 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 803 sqm. F.A.: 405 sqm.
Lot 11 Blk 1, J Racasa St., BF Resort Vill., Las Pinas City
Minimum Bid Price : 7,228,000.00

MAKATI

LOT 15 - Condo Unit
F.A.: 48.17 sqm.
Unit Ug-12 Star Centrum Codominium 317 Gil Puyat Ave.
Minimum Bid Price : 2,053,000.00

LOT 16 - CONDO
F.A.: 127 sqm.
Unit 333 9Th Floor, Sagittarius Residential Condominium Building I, Dela Costa St.
Minimum Bid Price : 5,284,000.00

LOT 17 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 359 sqm. F.A.: [illegible]
Lot [illegible] St., Sa[illegible] Vil
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price : 8,066,000.00

LOT 18 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 309 sqm. F.A.: sqm.
Lot 7 Blk16 No.1720 Escuela St., Guadalupe
Minimum Bid Price : 6,397,000.00

MALABON

LOT 19 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 494 sqm.
(Lot 7) #18 Interior M.Aquino St., Niugan
Minimum Bid Price : 727,000.00

LOT 20 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 294 sqm. F.A.: 116 sqm.
(Lot 31 Blk 10) 31 R. Diaz St., Merville Subd., Dampalit
Minimum Bid Price : 1,236,000.00

MANILA

LOT 21 - Condo Unit
F.A.: 35.20 sqm.
Unit 514 5Th Floor Plaza Towers Condominium Leon Guerrero Ermita
Minimum Bid Price : 380,000.00

LOT 22 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 61.63 sqm. F.A.: 340 sqm.
1-B-3C-1-B/ 4041 #1620 G. Tuazon Corner Loreto St. Sampaloc
Minimum Bid Price : 3,215,000.00

LOT 23 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 217.40 sqm. F.A.: 80 sqm.
Lot 21-D-4 #2401 Int. 21 Dagohoy, Singalong, Malate
Minimum Bid Price : 2,667,000.00

LOT 24 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 325 sqm. F.A.: 145 sqm.
Lot 8 / Blk 1, # 104(New) Alley 1, Dona Filomena Subd., West Crame, San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 3,816,000.00

LOT 25 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 443 sqm. F.A.: 180 sqm.
Lot 7/Blk 101, Urbino St., Kabayanan, San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 5,383,000.00

LOT 26 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 47.90 sqm. F.A.: 89 sqm.
Lot 32 Blk 279 1717 F. Varona Near Dandan Sts., Tondo, Manila
Minimum Bid Price : 774,000.00

MARIKINA

LOT 27 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 398 sqm. F.A.: 50 sqm.
L5B1 Rolling Hills Dr., Monterey Hills Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 788,000.00

MUNTINLUPA CITY

LOT 28 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 373 sqm.
(Lot 35-A-2-A) #78 Int. National Road, Putatan
Minimum Bid Price 2,417,000.00

PARAÑAQUE

LOT 29 - CONDO UNIT & 12.50 PARKING SLOT
F.A.: 37.50 sqm.
(Unit B2-14-3-J2-4) No. 3-A Papaya Bldg. II, Cluster 14, Westmont Village
Minimum Bid Price : 1,011,000.00

LOT 30 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 502 sqm. F.A.: 236 sqm.
Lot 1-B-3-B-2-A, Int. Of Papa Pio St., Sav 12
Minimum Bid Price : 1,868,000.00

LOT 31 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 296 sqm. F.A.: 155 sqm.
Lot 9 Blk 6, 9-A & 9-B Rosello St., Mon-El Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 1,304,000.00

LOT 32 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 500 sqm.
Lot 1-B-3-B-2-B-1-B Interior Of Papa Pio St Sav 12
Minimum Bid Price : 1,318,000.00

LOT 33 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 228 sqm.
Lot 23 Blk 2 Nina Ricci Drive, Savvy 25, Brgy. Marcelo
Minimum Bid Price : 925,000.00

PASAY

LOT 34 - Vacant Lot
L.A.: 404 sqm.
Lot 3, #355 F. Rosario St., Sta. Clara
Minimum Bid Price : 4,848,000.00

LOT 35 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 60.00 sqm. F.A.: 200 sqm.
Lot C-2-1 Unit 5 Hernandez Townhomes, 60 Don Hernandez St., San Rafael
Minimum Bid Price : 2,940,000.00

QUEZON CITY

LOT 36 - 3-STOREY BLDG, ROOFDECK, CARPORT
L.A.: 94 sqm. F.A.: 247 sqm.
L49B15 48 Sto.Nino St. Villa Espana
Minimum Bid Price : 2,596,000.00

LOT 37 - CONDO UNITS
L.A.: sqm. F.A.: 96 sqm.
Unit#S 3 & 4, 3Rd Flr. Heart Of The City Condominium, Sgt. Esguerra Corner Eugenio Lopez St., Brgy. South Triangle
Minimum Bid Price : 3,192,000.00

LOT 38 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 44.50 sqm. F.A.: 80 sqm.
(Lot 58-C/B225) #17-C Bernardo St., Brgy Manbio, San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price : 938,000.00

LOT 39 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 461 sqm. F.A.: 200 sqm.
11- B Elgino St., San Francisco Del Monte
Minimum Bid Price : 6,346,000.00

LOT 40 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 416 sqm.
L6 B2 Remarville Ave., Remarville Subd., Seminary Rd., Bagbag, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 3,782,000.00

LOT 41 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 240 sqm. F.A.: 488 sqm.
Lot 3 Quezon St., Dona Faustina Subd., San Bartolome, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 2,957,000.00

LOT 42 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 364 sqm. F.A.: 159 sqm.
Lot 13 Blk. 33 Butler St., Tumbok Bronx St., Fairmont I Subd. North Fairview
Minimum Bid Price : 2,953,000.00

LOT 43 - CONDOMINIUM
F.A.: 50.16 sqm.
UI3 3/F Rsg Condominium, Ermin Garcia St., Brgy Pinagkaisahan, Cubao
Minimum Bid Price : 933,000.00

LOT 44 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 250 sqm. F.A.: 167 sqm.
Lot 5-C-9 # 11 Private Road 20Th Ave. Brgy. Manga Cubao
Minimum Bid Price : 3,080,000.00

LOT 45 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 63.08 sqm.
Unit 312-B & 312-A, Loyola Heights Condominium, Esteban Abada St., Corner Fabian Dela Rosa St., Brgy. Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price : 2,101,000.00

LOT 46 - CONDO UNIT
F.A.: 63.08 sqm.
Unit 612-B & 612-A, Loyola Heights Condominium, Esteban Abada St., Corner Fabian Dela Rosa St., Brgy. Loyola Heights
Minimum Bid Price : 2,215,000.00

LOT 47 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 481.60 sqm. F.A.: 196 sqm.
Lot 4 Blk. 7 #8 Promenade Lane, Bluendge B Subd.
Minimum Bid Price : 9,153,000.00

LOT 48 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 51.50 sqm. F.A.: 109 sqm.
Lot 27-A, Portion Of Lot 27/Blk 33, #1-A (Townhouse Unit) Bakawan St., Veterans Village
Minimum Bid Price : 1,963,000.00

LOT 49 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 617 sqm. F.A.: 461 sqm.
Lot 3 & 4 Blk 1 # 7 Florvil St. Dalla Village Brgy. Tandang Sora
Minimum Bid Price : 3,448,000.00

LOT 50 - Makeshift Improvement
L.A.: 500 sqm.
Lot 601-A-4-A-5-A Interior Of # 17 Gloria II Tandand Sora
Minimum Bid Price : 825,000.00

LOT 51 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 120 sqm.
F.A.: 428 sqm.
23-B / Lch-17 #32 Hyacinth St. Roxas District
Minimum Bid Price : 2,320,000.00

LOT 52 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 526.40 sqm. F.A.: 384 sqm.
Lot 25 & 27/Blk 41, 98 Alley 2 Corner Alley 7, Project 6
Minimum Bid Price : 5,208,000.00

LOT 53 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 268.60 sqm. F.A.: 280 sqm.
5/34 #2 Jose Ma. Hugo St. Cor. May Isa St. Manila Project 4
Minimum Bid Price : 3,450,000.00

LOT 54 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 444.30 sqm. F.A.: 377 sqm.
Lot 7 Blk132, #19 Masikap St., Pinahan
Minimum Bid Price : 8,533,000.00

LOT 55 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A. 400 sqm. F.A.: [illegible]
Lot [illegible] St. Bon[illegible] Vil Pasong Tamo
WITHDRAWN
Minimum Bid Price: 3,079,000.00

LOT 56 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 181 sqm. F.A.: 86 sqm.
Lot 492-Dd-9 # 39 San Ignacio St. Brgy. Gulod Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 1,008,000.00

LOT 57 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 418.40 sqm. F.A.: 207 sqm.
Lot 6 Blk 23 # 11 Maalindog St. Up Village Diliman
Minimum Bid Price : 6,799,000.00

LOT 58 - VACANT LOT
L.A.. 1,000 sqm.
Lot 1-A Jasmin St., Dona Juana/Giorni Subd., Brgy. Holy Spirit, Capitol District
Minimum Bid Price : 1,947,000.00

LOT 59 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 192.15 sqm. F.A.: 192 sqm.
Lot 246-B-2-B # 44 Baesa Road Brgy. Baesa Quezon City
Minimum Bid Price : 1,823,000.00

LOT 60 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 869 sqm.
Lot 199-B-3-K, Outskirt Dona Faustina Subd., San Bartolome, Novaliches
Minimum Bid Price : 1,217,000.00

LOT 61 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 540 sqm.
L11B1 & L2B5 Kasiyahan St Brgy Holy Spirit
Minimum Bid Price : 1,215,000.00

LOT 62 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 820 sqm.
Lot 19 Blk 10 Sunnyside Hts., Filinvest Homes II, Matandang Balara
Minimum Bid Price : 3,116,000.00

RIZAL

LOT 63 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 206 sqm. F.A.: 151 sqm.
Lot 12 Blk. 21 #23 Rial St. Meralco Village, San Juan, Taytay
Minimum Bid Price : 1,056,000.00

LOT 64 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 319 sqm.
Lot 4043-A-11, Barrio Pantay, Teresa
Minimum Bid Price : 48,000.00

LOT 65 - VACANT LOT
L.A. 240 sqm.
Lot 8 Blk 5, Canlibot, Brgy. San Gabriel, Teresa
Minimum Bid Price : 36,000.00

LOT 66 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 745 sqm.
Lot 16 Blk 1, Forest Hills Estate Subd. Brgy San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,133,000.00

LOT 67 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 1,008 sqm.
Lot 33 Blk 10, Forest Hills Estate Subd. Brgy San Juan
Minimum Bid Price : 1,046,000.00

VALENZUELA CITY

LOT 68 - LOT & IMPROVEMENT
L.A.: 500 sqm. F.A.: 90 sqm.
(Lot 42-A Pasolo Lolomboy Estate) #39(86) Pasolo Rd, Pasolo
Minimum Bid Price : 1,260,000.00

LOT 69 - TOWNHOUSE UNIT
L.A.: 113 sqm. F.A.: 96 sqm.
(Lot 1) No. 1 Antonette Townhomes I, Pasong Balite St., Marulas
Minimum Bid Price : 664,000.00

NEW PROPERTIES

LOT 70 - VACANT LOT
L.A.: 312 sqm.
Lot 26 Blk 222 Phase 8, North Fairview
Minimum Bid Price : 702,000.00

PRIME PROPERTIES

LOT 71 - Land & Building
L.A.: 467 sqm.
8411 Trabajo St. Olympia, Makati City
Minimum Bid Price: 10,745,450.00

LOT 72 - Land & Building
L.A.: 1,696 sqm.
L19 B25 #137 Libra St. Cinco Hermanos Subd., Marikina City
Minimum Bid Price: 15,084,000.00

LOT 73 - Condo/ Townhouse
L.A.: 317.67 sqm.
Unit 30-B Washington Tower, Asiaworld, Brgy. Tambo, Paranaque City
Minimum Bid Price:10,482,750.00

LOT 74 - Condo/ Townhouse
L.A.: 333 sqm.
Unit 30-C Washington Tower, Asiaworld, Brgy. Tambo, Paranaque City
Minimum Bid Price:10,989,000.00

LOT 75 - Condo/ Townhouse
L.A.: 265.11 sqm.
U2201 21/22F Crown Towers, H Dela Costa, Salcedo Village
Minimum Bid Price:11,532,000.00

LOT 76 - Condo/ Townhouse
L.A.: 601.65 sqm.
Penthouse Unit B Washington Tower, Asiaworld, Brgy. Tambo, Paranaque City
Minimum Bid Price:22,110,750.00

LOT 77 - Condo/ Townhouse
L.A.: 363.94 sqm.
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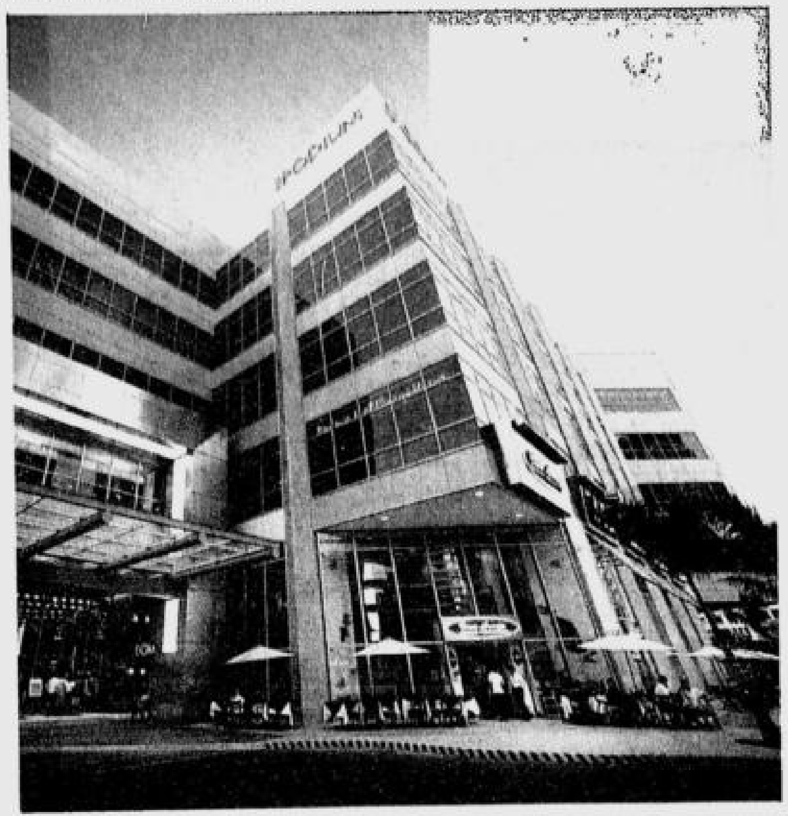

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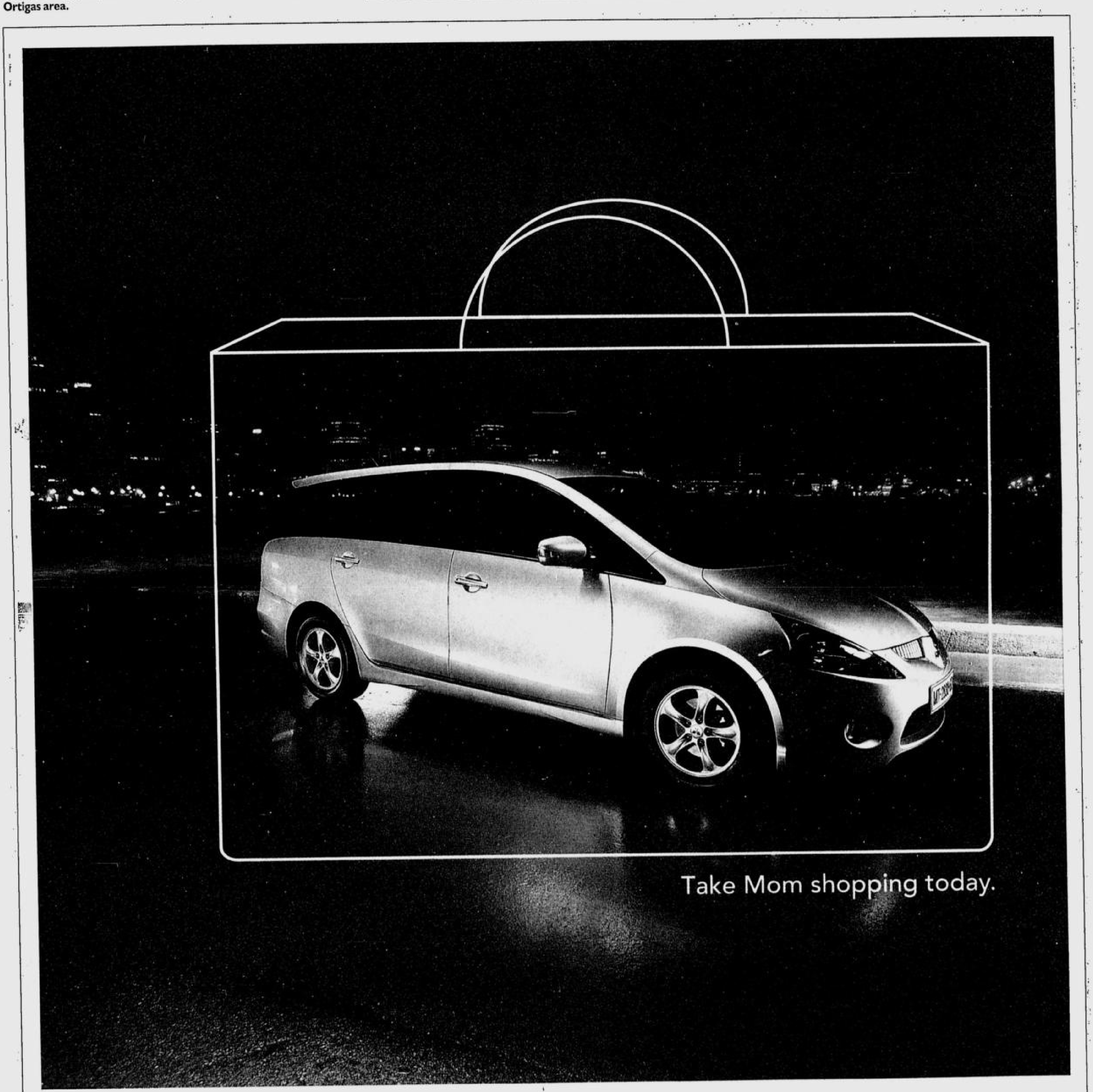

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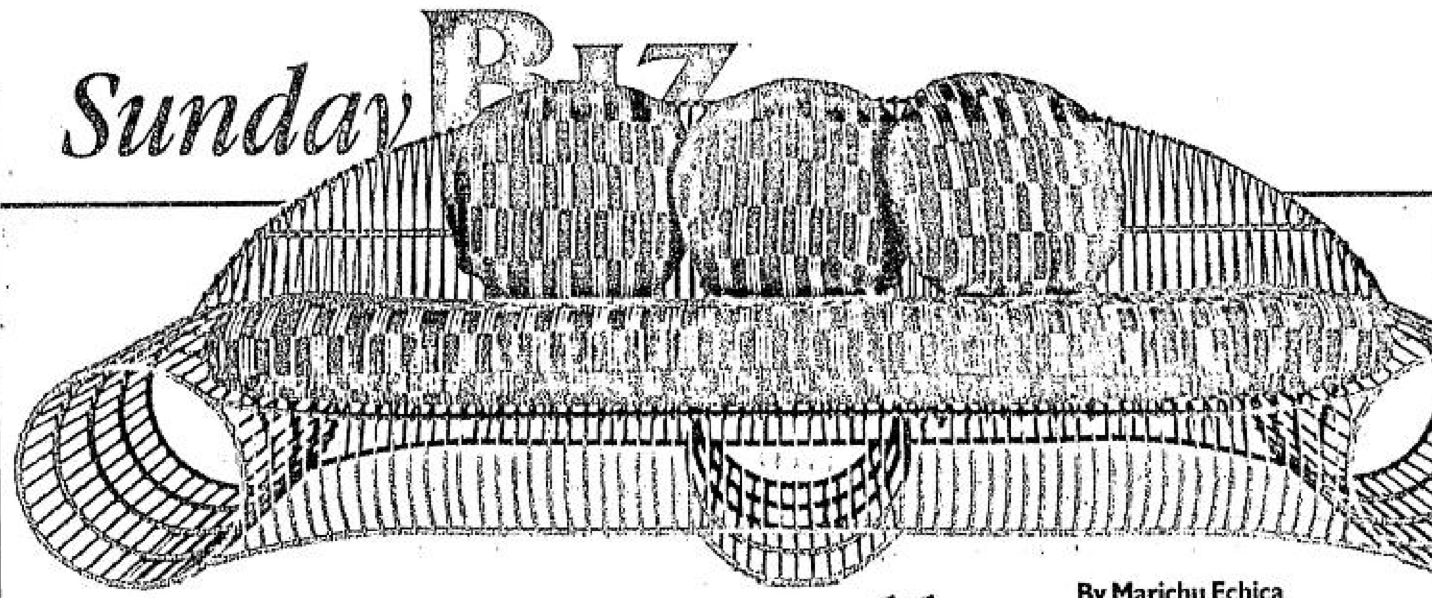


CHRIS 3-seater with brown cushions

Designer proudly carries RP brand

By Marichu Echica
Contributor, PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—IT USED TO BE THAT THE all-important thing in the manufacture of goods was simply making a sale. The more, the merrier.

In the export industry, firms were so excited to make a sale that they did not mind if the buyers told them to tag their products with names other than their own.

After all, what they were after was to make money from the products.

The days of the anonymous Filipino designer are, thankfully, going the way of the dodo.

A new breed of entrepreneurs is coming up to prove that the Filipino can. One of these is Alan Murillo, who is making a name for himself in the furniture industry.

Alan also insists that buyers of his products should carry his own brand, Murillo.

Alan has no formal studies in designing or in business, having studied mass communications in college.

MURILLO

He, however, is fortunate because he learned at the feet of his father, who was once connected with a rattan furniture company. He couldn't help but absorb the nitty-gritty of the business that surrounded him, and in the process, he developed his natural talent for design and knack for making his products sell.

Unafraid of copycats

Unlike other designers or businessmen, Alan is not afraid of competitors pirating or copying his designs.

Being more technology driven than his father before him, Alan got his clients, especially the Europeans, more from the Internet than from other sources.

Naturally, he has to print his designs on his Web page, and of course, any Tom, Dick and Harry could easily copy them.

He even hears of some Manila stores carrying his designed furniture. Most likely, they were copied from his catalogue on the Internet.

But since he has not patented his designs, he lets them be. After all, imitation is supposed to be the best form of flattery. But he reasons that if the buyer knows where they were originally from, he would naturally seek the original.

That's what he is banking on; that the buyers would prefer the genuine article. For it is in the genuine that one can appreciate the truly superb craftsmanship, the true beauty and uniqueness of his designs.

Proud of local craftsmen

Alan is especially proud of his craftsmen, for they are the ones who translate his ideas from paper to furniture.

We are not especially respectful of our carpenters and weavers and handymen, says Alan, and he aims to raise Filipinos' level of respect when they see the finished products executed by these people.

What Alan wants emphasized is the craftsmanship, for this, he says, is the Philippines' main selling point.

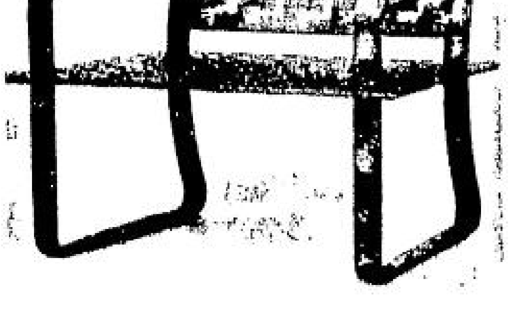
Alan's designs are not ornate and do not have the baroque or intricate curlicues and ornamentations usually associated with Asian designs.

They are more of the clean, fluid elegant lines Europeans love, it's no wonder he has a lot of European customers.

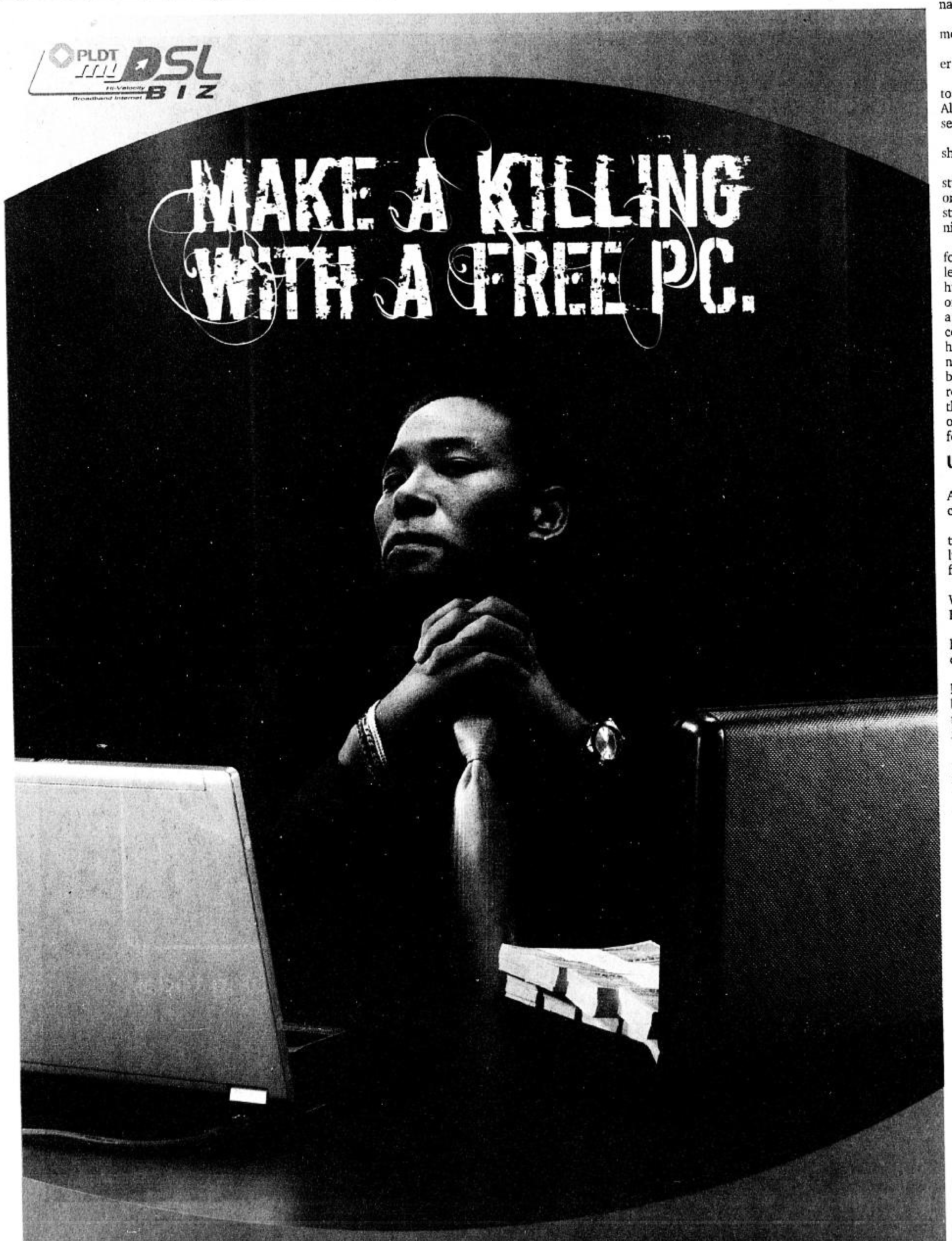
This is, as Alan says, "the combination of low tech with artistry fused in a piece of furniture." To Alan, the best way to follow the dictum that form and function should go together is to do these three things: understand the material, use the raw talent and/or skills of the people and know the basic philosophy of design.

This is why the look is contemporary and modern though he uses indigenous materials.

By using local materials, Alan shows the market that indigenous materials can be classic, elegant and world-class and worth everyone's time and money.



NUEVO arm chair with rattan splits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Sunday LifeStyle
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso
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A day in the life of mothers

IMAGINE READING HOW THE day went for all kinds of women. Imagine being able to have a glimpse on what women were really doing, thinking and feeling as they went through their daily lives.

On that particular day, did they do something in common? Did they realize a dream? Did they confront their fears? Or did they have an uneventful day, a day so ordinary it could make those of us who run around on full schedules so jealous?

Trying to realize the what-if situation, we have asked several mothers, some known to the public, some not too well known, to give us a page of their life, as gleaned from the diary.

The Sunday Lifestyle invited specially chosen mothers to create a diary on a single day—Tuesday, May 2.

They were asked to record everything that happened to them on that day—from their first thoughts or prayers when they woke up, to what they did once their children were awake, how their day went at work and at home, what they were really thinking of while they were in a meeting with a client or doing laundry or having a massage, to last-minute details of their day before going to bed.

You will read their diaries on these pages—their thoughts, their joys, their fears, their worries, their triumphs. This is our tribute to motherhood, a 24-hour, seven-day job.

Is there a better way to celebrate Mother's Day?

MAY 2, 2006

MIKEE Cojuangco-Jaworski

Checklist mom plays catch-up

By Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski

THINGS to do today: Catch up!

- Go to therapy and grocery (urgent need: toilet paper)
- Household accounting!
- Pay outstanding bills!
- Call Jeff to check on the horses.
- Update Mabuhay Miles account.
- Check e-mail (personal and Philippine Equestrian Federation or PEF).
- E-mail: Rebekah (pesto recipe), photos of paintings for sale, Toni's Schengen Visa request.
- PEF: Mitos CTC and Tin, prepare for meeting with PSC re: liquidation.
- Send printer and iPod for repair.

9 a.m.— I wake up and I am still tired. I arrived yesterday afternoon after a week in Kuala Lumpur to watch the Equestrian Show Jumping World Cup Final, help Putri in the Asian Show Jumping Category and attend various meetings for the PEF.

It was nice to be a spectator at such a big event, and to spend time with my horsey friends. When I wasn't coaching or doing official duties, all we did was walk (a lot!), get on and off trains, watch the competitions, eat and shop!

Dot was busy in Pasig when I got home yesterday, so I had to wait a while before I got to see him. I was so excited to walk through the door of the boys' room, anticipating shrieks of joy and big hugs after they received their *pasalubong*.

But alas, the power of Disney Channel was overwhelming, and I didn't exactly get the welcome I expected.

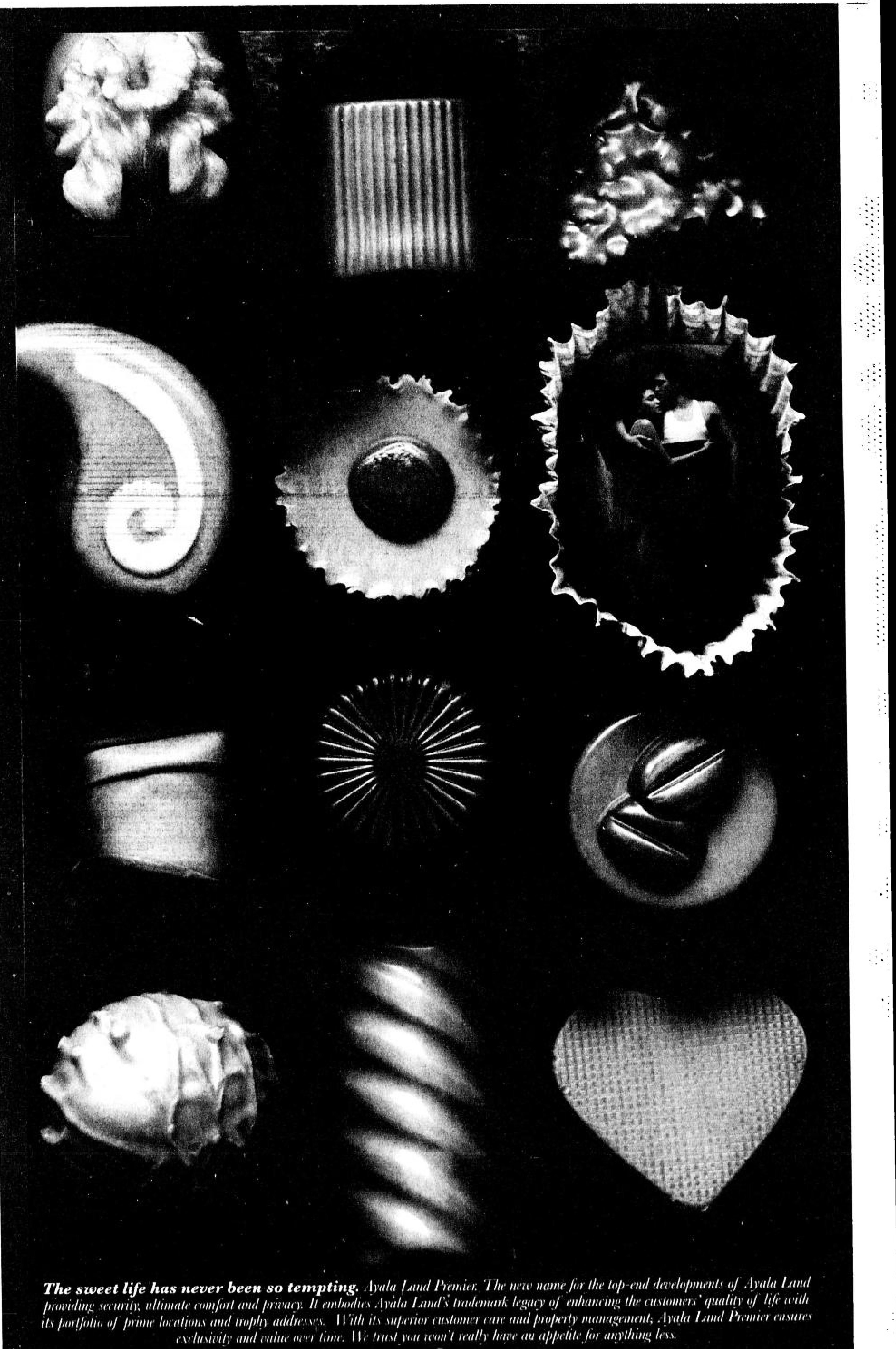
Luckily Dot made up for all that! I had a very late lunch, took a nap, and when I woke up, Dot, Robbie, Rafael (who had gone for a swim) and I put the puzzles I brought home for the kids to very good use.

We didn't sleep until around 2 a.m., with the four of us in our usual scrunched-up arrangement on our king-sized bed.

With all the things I have to do today, I jump right into them after saying goodbye to Dot, who was starting his activities for the day in Pasig.

The plan is to start off with the things I can do on the computer. Just as I am trying to go online, Robbie

CHECKLIST/C2



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AyalaLand PREMIER

A journalist-mom's parenting guilt

By Cathy Yamsuan

5:35 A.M.—RUDELY AWAKENED BY muscle cramp on left leg. I notice this occurs more often now that I'm on my seventh month of pregnancy, and it always happens in the early morning. On the bright side, I probably wouldn't need the alarm clock for a while. Good morning!

7 a.m.—Finally decide to get out of bed. Go to the bathroom and pee. Peel off all clothes and step on the weighing scale. Still 160 pounds. No weight gain since last visit to OB-Gyne two weeks ago. Yes! Walk to the mirror and examine the proportion of my protruding belly to the rest of my body. Belly is smooth and shiny and seems to have taken almost all of the additional pounds gained in past seven months. No swollen legs or fingers today. A good reason to give thanks and pray.

7:50 a.m.—Just finished praying for children, husband, unborn baby, parents, in-laws, sister and her family. Also for all who need help, guidance and understanding. Will now proceed to breakfast, mainly soya milk.

9 a.m.—Am doing my indoor exercises when daughter Zoe wakes up and says she wants *bistek tagalog* for breakfast. Also asks if she could use the PlayStation. I tell her to drink her vitamins first. Am always worried about her daily dose of video games (two hours a day: one in the morning, another in the afternoon). And Animax! Some friends rationalize that since it's summer and there's no school, why not allow children to have fun? Still, it makes me uncomfortable. Zoe should have taken taekwondo this summer but her eyeglasses pose as a safety hazard. Her myopia is genetic. But maybe if she doesn't spend too much time in front of the television, she wouldn't need such thick lenses in the first place.

10 a.m.—After 1½ hours of walking around the house, I eat two *pan de sal* with peanut butter. I have read somewhere it's better to think of nutrition instead of calories. Peanut butter has a lot of fat but mostly monounsaturated. Peanut butter also has a lot of protein. Peanut butter is good. I feel good.

11 a.m.—After shower, I join son Dylan in watching the "Walking with Dinosaurs Special" on Discovery Channel. "Where have all the dinosaurs gone?" he asks. "They've been extinct for millions of years. That's why you don't see them in real life. The dinosaurs in Discovery Channel are all computer-animated," I answer. "So are all the dinosaurs dead?" he asks. I nod. "All of them?" "Yes." "Do you think they're in heaven?" "Honestly, I don't know." "You should! You're the mommy, you should know things like that, *'di ba?*"

12 noon—Extol the virtues of thinking before speaking to my daughter Zoe. The thing is, she always gets into trouble for being so "*taklesa.*" It is so irritating, especially since many of her statements put me on the spot. That's why I don't like bringing her to the office, even if she promises to behave. I can't take that risk. I can never guarantee that she will not say anything that might offend the officemates. But while I explain all this to her, she just grunts and scowls and doesn't seem to understand why I'm making a big deal about her careless statements. Because, dear Zoe, we don't want to hurt other people. Because you should understand that it's better to think first before speaking. Because you make me look like a bad mother when you give your mindless statements! There, I said it!

1 p.m.—Take time to cool off in the lanai before writing and e-mailing my story to Libre. Despite the afternoon heat, I can feel the steam leaving my body after that exhausting talk with my daughter Zoe. Now comes the guilt. Am I too hard on her? Do I make too big a deal about her habit of making mindless statements that tend to hurt other people? If I don't call her attention to it, I'm afraid it would only get worse. And I feel she needs to be disciplined. But I also don't want to alienate my daughter. I feel so tired already.

CATHY with husband Brian and kids Zoe and Dylan

2 p.m.—Go to the bank after I finish writing my story for Libre. Bank queue is long as usual. Sit in a quiet corner and pull out a book to read. Contoured plastic seats are very uncomfortable. Baby in belly squirms, as if to add its dissent. Its twitching is becoming stronger and more frequent. I softly caress my belly, my way of saying hello. Baby responds with a gentle push on my resting palm. We understand each other.

3 p.m.—Husband calls to tell me our summer vacation trip might be postponed. Someone who wants to join the party is sick. "It wouldn't be good if he comes with us, especially since you're pregnant," hubby says over the phone. "Everyone has decided to wait it out until he gets well," he adds. "Fine with me, but how do we tell the children," I reply. "Oh, you'll find a way. You always explain things better. Besides, the children are old enough to understand," he says. Sure thing, honey!

4 p.m.—Zoe grunts when told about the postponed summer trip. Her head sinks to her shoulders, she lowers her eyes and leaves. How come I never got away with that same reaction to my parents when I was 10? Dylan is upset, as expected. "If we move the trip, we'll have four days instead of three," I tell him with a forced cheer in my voice. "Maybe we should make it seven to make up for the lost time," he answers.

5-7 p.m.—I slump on the living room sofa and call my mother. Not really expecting her to be home but glad that she is. She talks about her work, her friends and activities in church. How my dad is depressed about his new assignment at work. I enjoy talking to my mom. And I am quite surprised when I put the phone down that we spent more than an hour on the phone, just like high school girls. Honestly, I have a better appreciation of her now that I have a family and kids of my own. And I pity the people who choose to discard their parents from their grownup lives, whatever their reasons are for doing so.

7:30 p.m.—I overhear the news about a Pinay overseas worker in Saudi Arabia who severed her male employer's penis. Lorena Bobbitt meets Sarah Balabagan.

8:30 p.m.—Dylan insists on having hotdogs for dinner. I feel a tinge of guilt for not raising a howl over his choice. Hotdogs contain a lot of fat and calories. Not good for Dylan. In the first place, I was the one who bought those hotdogs, so I should be accountable for bringing those to the house. More guilt creeps up. Why can't I feed my children better food? Where is my conscience? Why do I have so much guilt?

9:30 p.m.—Reading "Tete-A- Tete: The Lives and Loves of Simone de Beauvoir and John-Paul Sartre." I am taking all opportunities to read, knowing that once the baby is out there will be no more time for things like this. Can you believe it? In a couple of months, there will hardly be time for the things I want to do. So read! So sleep! So watch that movie!

The diarist, 37, covered various political assignments for the INQUIRER *for seven years before transferring to* INQUIRER *Libre in 2001. The move has allowed her to spend more time with her two children—Zoe, now 10, and Dylan, 5. Now seven months pregnant, Cathy and husband Brian are waiting for the birth of their new baby in July.*

Stay-at-home lawyer-mom

By Madelaine Santos-Orden

8 A.M.—I WOKE UP LATE, AND WITH a mild hangover from last night's "drinking session" with my husband. He looked groggy as he dressed up. I was still sleepy and I almost cut my finger while preparing breakfast. My nearly-5-year-old daughter forced herself to wake up so she can watch cartoons.

8:30 a.m.—My husband kissed us goodbye and left for work. My picky-eater got hungry and had her usual breakfast. I drank my coffee and wondered: This day seems too ordinary to be included in a Mother's Day special.

9 a.m.—I did the laundry. My husband usually did it on weekends, except when we got busy going out. Thank God for washing machines; I do not have to be at the mercy of household helpers.

10 a.m.—I hung the last set of clothes I washed. My little copycat had also finished bathing her small stuffed toys, which she fondly calls pets.

11 a.m.—I listened as my daughter read her books. It crossed my mind that she is going to school for the first time this coming June. I felt excited and afraid at the same time. Excited because it would be another milestone, and afraid because she will be off my sight for two hours a day. Excited again that she was accepted as prep, instead of kinder, and afraid again that she might have difficulty adjusting.

11:30 a.m.—I listened as my daughter played her kiddie piano. I applauded when she finished playing "Happy Birthday" and "Twinkle Twinkle Little Star," which I taught her last night. It dawned on me that I have so many faces in the eyes of my child. I am her mother who loves her so much; her "*yaya*" who caters to all her needs (and caprices); her cook who makes her favorite *sinigang*; her teacher who talks about past, present and future tenses; and her haircutter who does her 'do, among many others.

12 noon—My husband and I exchanged our usual lunchtime text messages: "How r u? Wats ur fud? Eat well. Luv u!" It's funny but we can't seem to eat without informing each other first. I wonder how many couples are like us.

12:30 p.m.—My daughter and I had our lunch and decided to take a nap, which at first was not a welcome idea for her. I wonder why kids don't like sleeping in the afternoon.

2:30 p.m.—I wasn't able to sleep well because of the summer heat. I wrapped my anniversary gift for my husband and hoped he'd like it. My funds for gifts are limited because I accept only part-time jobs. Tomorrow is our fifth wedding anniversary and I haven't made up my mind where to dine out. Definitely, not at my daughter's favorite fast-food chain!

4 p.m.—My daughter woke up looking recharged. She ate snacks and biked endlessly at the front yard. I gathered the dry clothes and started folding them one by one and, since I am not particularly fond of this chore, I had to watch TV to lessen the burden.

6 p.m.—I chanced upon the QTV program "Moms," and the guests enumerated the "signs of a philandering husband." I haven't seen nor felt those signs yet. Hopefully, not ever.

MADIE with her little clone, Kix

7 p.m.—I kissed my husband when he arrived looking tired. He needs to rest, I thought, so I massaged his head as he listened to our daughter's "recap" of what she did for the day.

8:20 p.m.—We watched "Smallville." Everybody loves Superman!

9 p.m.—I noticed that my husband ate little than usual. Maybe he had lost his appetite again due to stress at work. I'm the one who should shed some pounds.

10 p.m.—While our daughter tried to sleep, my husband and I talked and drank beer. He asked if I wanted to handle a case in Batangas that promised quite a considerable amount of "litigation fees," which I turned down because of our angel. I must admit, being a lawyer and a full-time mom is unusual and a lot of people think I can't find a job, or worse, no one wants to hire me. They just don't know I turned down so many offers, I lost count already. I know that I already have the greatest job in the world—being a mom.

12 midnight—My husband and I greeted each other happy anniversary, exchanged gifts, hugged and kissed. It's already a blessing to be able to celebrate our anniversary. We will still reminisce until we fall asleep. Never mind the headache when we wake up late again.

The 30-year-old diarist is a lawyer, married to Ned, also a lawyer, but finds fulfillment in being a full-time nanny, cook, tutor, stylist and all-around doting mommy to their precocious little girl, Kix.

Checklist mom plays catch-up

From page C1

and Rafael start stretching and opening their eyes. They look over to me, sit up wide-eyed, and explode into laughter, shouting "Mommy's really home!"

Finally! The welcome I expected!

After playing with the puzzles some more, playing basketball in the room and catching up on everything the kids did while I was away, Dot arrive in time for lunch. After eating, we send the kids off to Kumon and Robbie's tutorial session in preparation for his Brent School entrance exam.

Seeing a window of opportunity to get some work done since Dot is busy on the phone and is expecting some people, I try to get back into work mode.

I am extremely frustrated not to be able to go online as the Internet connection is not working! Aaargh!

Determined to be productive, I prepare checks for bills that have to be paid, send out text messages to people to follow up things, make phone calls, and plan a dinner with my parents and sisters as I missed my Mom's birthday last Saturday.

I also call Kristine (head of the physical therapy department) at the Moro Lorenzo Sports Center to see what time I could come in, but she knows from the sound of my voice that I am still tired, and it may be counterproductive to exert myself physically but not effectively enough to be considered treatment.

The lazy person that I am, I figure I am not desperate enough for toilet paper (we still have a roll and a half left). Besides, I realize that I can't send my all-in-one printer to be repaired yet because with the Internet down, I need to print and fax documents instead of just sending them by e-mail. As long as I don't have to scan or copy, I'd be fine. And the iPod would just have to wait.

Back to the paperwork.

When the kids get back from school, Dot and I know they'd want to jump straight into the pool. It isn't an extremely hot day and I've always been a chicken when it comes to bathing in cold water, and it doesn't help that I have not completely recovered from my trip, but I have to join my three boys in the pool because it would mean a lot to them.

So I join them, splashing about partly to keep myself warm enough, while Dot makes cannonball jumps into the pool. Robbie swims underwater to pick up coins from the bottom of the pool's deep end, and Rafael attempts to dive head first but ends up belly-flopping most of the time. When the kids start talking about calling for some pizza, we decide it's time to get out and to get ready for dinner.

We shower, get dressed and head off to Sakura. Dot and I sit with the "oldies," and put the two kids closer to their cousins. We allow them to practice independence by eating properly on their own. We have decided to do this in the car since Robbie and Rafael have been bugging my Dad about taking them to the US with us next month for some POC activities and medical exams. We tell them they have to show us they can at least feed themselves properly.

It's quite a successful exercise as Rafael needs just a little assistance and Robbie hardly any at all.

There's an exchange of gifts over dinner, as I hand a variety of items that I got from KL to my Mom. I wasn't able to get her one special gift, but I did find a few things that I knew she'd enjoy.

Ninang Lin, who joined us for dinner, brought along the laptop I've been in dire need of, and she kindly decides to give it to me as a gift.

The Lord is so great that he has blessed us with people who are very kind and generous, who unknowingly fill our wants so we can concentrate on fulfilling our needs!

Back home, the smell of the food cling on to us and fill the bedroom, making us rush into the shower again, scrubbing ourselves to get rid of the scent of grilled meat and garlic.

Then it's back to puzzles, crayons, basketball and Disney Channel after that. So much for the news, "CSI" and "Alias"! But that's okay, as I am sure those would not have elicited as much fun and laughter as the things we end up doing.

It is 2 a.m. We've said our prayers, and Dot and the kids have fallen asleep. Back to the computer for me, for as long as I can keep my eyes open. I need to get as much done, and hopefully I will not find I have to make the list longer when I wake up.

So how productive was my day? I'd say that my checklist is not looking too impressive. Well, neither is my weight-maintenance effort! But my day was bright and my heart is full, and I have another day very similar to this one to look forward. All things considered, I'd say I am not doing too badly at all.

Right now, the sound of snoring is music to my ears.

The diarist is a former actress and an active member of the Philippine Equestrian Federation or PEF. She's the wife of Pasig Rep. Robert Jaworski Jr. and proud mother to Robbie and Rafael.

A stylist-mom's unstylish day

By Jenni Epperson

6:26 A.M.—LIKE MOST MORNINGS, I am awaken by the sunlight that pierces through our bedroom window. I lie like a log, squinting at what seems to be another hot day. And like many mornings, the same thought lingers... Why could I never seem to get myself into buying curtains for that damn window?

7:03 a.m.—I'm asked by hubby to cook my famous eggs benedict. He eats healthy cardboard-tasting cereals, skimmed milk and a fruit. So any chance to add animal fat to his super-toned bod, I'm happy to oblige. I guess I feel less guilty as my breakfast usually consists of cooked animal (*tapa*, *tocino*, *tuyo*, *daing* or Century Tuna with rice), two toasted wheat bread, butter, two eggs with sea salt, fresh ground pepper and Tabasco cooked using a super-cool plastic egg container (no oil needed) that you pop into the microwave.

7:40 a.m.—I pack my car with my styling kit and racks of clothes. On my way to Pandacan (which by the way, I have no clue where) for a styling job. My driver is on vacation so I'm left to my road instincts. Scary.

8:09 a.m.—The client's PA calls to check my whereabouts... "Where are you, Ma'am Jen. Mr. Bong (Revilla) is here *na*." I answer, "Stuck in Quirino Avenue, almost lost, please tell Kuya Bong I'll be there soon."

8:25 a.m.—So this is Pandacan. Painless driving, it's not that hard to find. I am welcomed by Irwin of Imus Production and Kuya Bong's boys help me with my things. I call my assistant, Kat, on her cell phone. She says she's sick, so I have to call my other assistant, Maureen, to help out. She arrives after an hour.

9:50 a.m.—Finally, I see Kuya Bong. He's super nice and super cute. He and his sister, Andrea, always ask me to style his PR shots and movie posters. He had lost a lot of weight from the last time I saw him, but he teases me if I was preggy. He's not looking too cute now.

10:40 a.m.—Leaves Maureen and the whole production shooting on location in Pandacan. Kat calls to say she's on her way to Pandacan but I tell her to meet me in Makati instead for my other shoot.

11:27 a.m.—I arrive in One Workshop gallery/studio. I unload more clothes and accessories for my Star Mall shoot.

11:38 a.m.—Kat arrives late. Anyway, she looks sick so I don't give her a hard time (shucks!).

12:12 p.m.—Hungry.

12:25 p.m.—I order from Brother's Burger. I'm addicted to their roast beef sandwich with sautéed onions and salty sauce... Yum!

1:50 p.m.—Jennelyn Mercado running late. Call time is 11 a.m. I can never get used to celebrities' schedule—it's so erratic—but I tolerate it. Besides, Camille Villar of Star Mall is such a sweetheart. I'm not walking out... yet.

2:50 p.m.—Jennelyn arrives. I tell myself, "Just breathe, Jenni, breathe." She says hi to everyone, she seems nice, and she's so sexy. I forgive her. Let's shoot!

5:18 p.m.—I bid everyone goodbye, but I leave Kat to finish the shoot. I'm off to my office to meet Arnold, who's working on my website.

5:45 p.m.—My daughter Aryanna opens the gate for me. She looks so beautiful with her messy hair, I want to hug her and bite her chin. My hubby's working on the computer; I give him a peck. I love coming home to them, whether I'm tired, stressed or frustrated. A hug, a peck on the nose or just hearing their voices make me feel the luckiest mom in the world. Weep.

6:10 p.m.—Kat texts. They're done shooting.

JENNI and Aryanna

6:50 p.m.—Preparing a website for my agent abroad is nerve-racking, I want to make sure my styling portfolio has a global feel to it. It's amazing how many shoots I've done over six years. I need to update my personal work though.

7:40 p.m.—Hungry.

8:10 p.m.—Hubby and I start cooking. Baked stuffed squid—it's a recipe from a healthy cookbook he recently bought. Hmmm... hint hint, Jenni, eat healthy!

9:30 p.m.—I rub Aryanna's tummy, I do it almost every night till she goes to bed. Lying down, I notice her feet almost touching mine, she's growing fast! She tells me how much she loves me and squeezes my nose, I hate it when she does it, but I let her. She cracks up every time she does it and her laughter is music to my ears.

10:30 p.m.—I go back to the room to check the organizer in my cell phone: two shoots tomorrow, one for advertising and one PR shoot for another celebrity. Better remind my assistants to prepare the clothes.

10:45 p.m.—Maureen texts me; she just got home. Oh my gosh, she's been in Pandacan since 9 a.m. The trouble with PR shooting for a movie on location is that it's a waiting game. Poor Mau. She's a trooper. I'm glad to have very hardworking assistants and cute ones too. I just realize: Kat's been with me for five years. Oh. My. Gosh.

11:50 p.m.—I snuggle next to Tom in bed and tell him I love him. He tells me the same and he rubs my back till I fall asleep.

The diarist is a dyed-in-the-wool fashionista even before she joined this paper as creative director of Just Shop and one of the contributing editors of INQUIRER *Fashion. She also writes a weekly style column,* Mabuhay, *which comes out every Friday. She is proud mother to Aryanna.*

Advertiser-mom's birthday kid

By Mitos Camahort

6:45 A.M.—THE ALARM RANG. STAYED in bed... Oh no, another hectic day!!!

7 a.m.—Had coffee and raisin bread. Went through the front page. What else is new?

8 a.m.—Checked with the cook and asked what would be for lunch for my folks and daughter. Asked her what she needed to buy and needed for me to get on my way home tonight. Gave her money to buy bananas for my father.

8:15 a.m.—Said my goodbyes to Poch. Went to Monica's room to kiss and remind her to review her math. Said goodbye to the folks. Answered some text messages before driving out.

Drove to work. Prayed the rosary till I got to my office. Included in my prayers that the rooster our pet lab went after was alive and that the owner not cause us any problems.

9:10 a.m.—In the office. Turned on computer. Went over e-mails I had to answer. Sent out a few. Had a short "status" meeting with staff and interviewed an OJT who happened to be the daughter of an officemate years back.

9:45 a.m.—Chairman walked in and we discussed a few things. Agreed to meet over lunch. Went over inbox to sign some documents, etc... Returned call of mom of Monica's friend to finalize schedule for her birthday skating party.

10:15 a.m.—Left for another "status" meeting. Had a second cup of coffee.

11:45 a.m.—Answered some text messages as soon as I got to the car. Answered the call of my daughter who couldn't find her math workbook and was giving all sorts of reasons not to work on it today because it was the day before her birthday!

Drove back to office for a mancom (manpower committee) meeting over lunch.

12 noon-4 p.m.—Long mancom. Tiring.

4 p.m.—Checked e-mail. Answered some and made return calls. Called the house to check how things were while waiting for next meeting,

4:30 p.m.—Meeting. Asked messenger to get pearlized balloons for daughter's birthday. Want to dress up the house to make her day special. She insisted she did not want a children's party anymore.

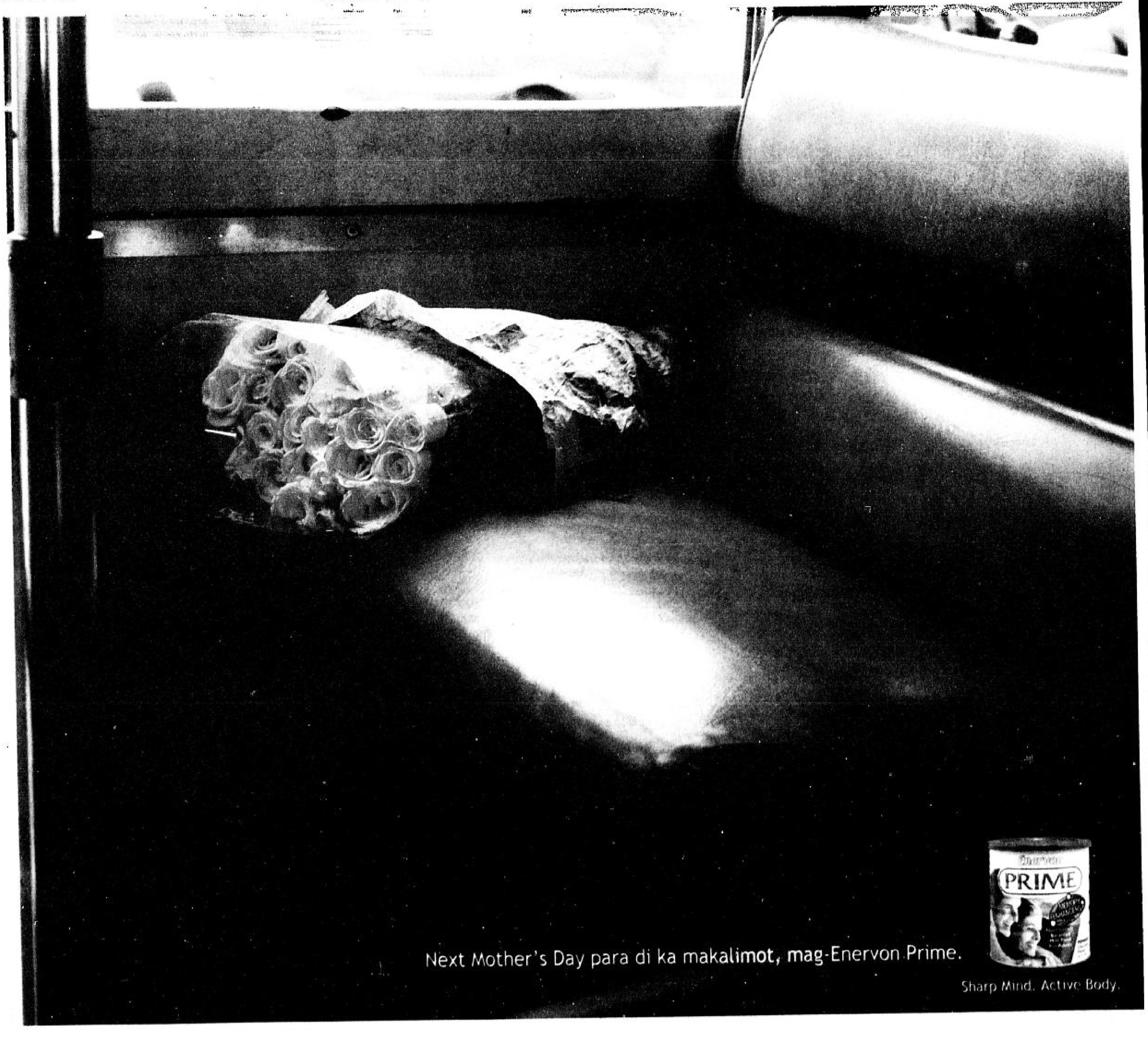
5 p.m.—Made a call on sis-in-law to finalize plans for the special event we are throwing for ma-in-law. Finalized order for a special cake. I was hungry!

Ran through my desk for paperwork.

6:05 p.m.—Day finally over. Took a call and returned one. Shut down computer. Cleared my desk. Organized papers for tomorrow.

The diarist is the president of Image Dimensions Inc., an advertising agency.

MITOS Camahort



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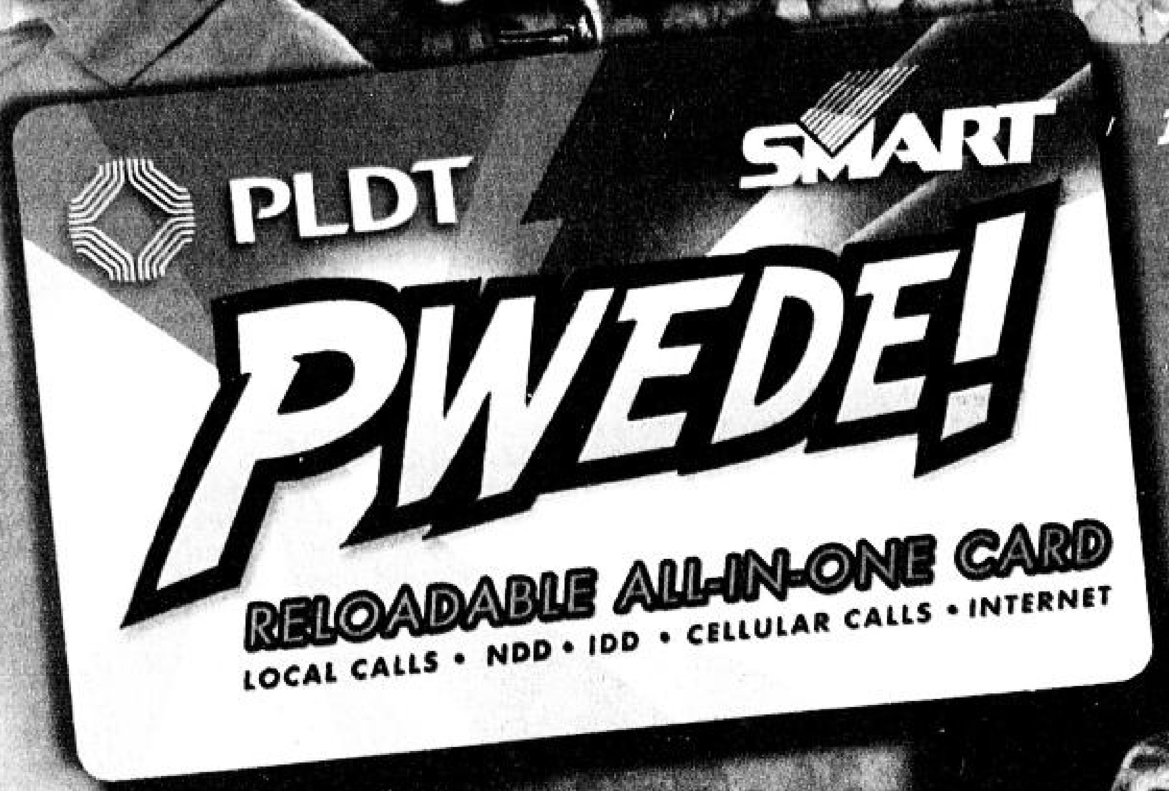
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PATRICE with kids, Aki, 5; Luis, 4; and Quito, 7

MAY 2, 2006

Shagged out by kids in Shanghai

By Patrice Ramos-Diaz

7:30 A.M.—AM IN SHANGHAI, not known to be generous with good weather: 17 degrees today, cloudy. In the shower, I'm taking a mental note of my to-do list for the day. It's a week-long holiday… lots of time to explore the city with hubby.

9 a.m.—While waiting for my son to get dressed (he asked to be dropped off at his "bestest buddy's" house), I browse my picture file in the computer, trying to find one for this article. I come across my favorite picture of Luis and Aki, in their Ferrarri outfit, hugging each other. I'm smiling!

11 a.m.—On our way to the Shanghai Art Museum with Rajo, we pass the famous Nanjing Walking street—not exactly a good idea on a Chinese holiday here. But it's the last day of the Armani Retrospective.

12 past—Having lunch with hubby, Jay, at our fave Japanese resto. We order the usual. I miss my kids. They love the sweet tare sauce here. This is also where we discovered Aki's skill in using chopsticks.

After lunch, we do our usual digestive walk outside Times Square. Last time we did this, Shanghai was hitting below-zero temperatures with matching wind coming through the Huangpu River.

This time it's a perfect spring weather… the kind that puts you in a jolly mood. It is good enough to get Jay in the mood for shopping!

First (and last) stop: Uniqlo, a reliable Japanese brand… Japan's own version of Bench. Lots of good finds for Jay and the kids. The women's line leaves much to be desired though. I always end up buying just socks… which makes me think… that could be why Jay likes this place.

Time for a dose of caffeine. Next door is Wagas with its trademark Illy coffee. Good excuse to check in on my favorite cheesecake, too.

Jay and I are having a laugh… remembering Rajo's rendition of Ate Vi's version of "I zaw mommy keezing Zanta Klawz!"

3 p.m.—Doing the grocery can be quite a chore in China. Unfamiliar brands, packaging strewn with Chinese characters, strange positioning of aisles… and a multitude of choices.

For cooking oil alone, there's peanut oil, grapeseed oil, canola, sunflower, soybean, corn oil?

Plus I have to do the math. Which is healthier? Cheaper? Better quality?

Back home, grocery shopping is a topic of interest for young moms, each one sharing an experience with a great inexpensive diaper.

I also hate having to pass through the wet section. Turtles, frogs and other creepy crawlies in glass aquariums. As my son would say… "Ewww!"

On our way home, we decide to pass by the newly opened Brand Outlet mall, just a stone's throw away from our place.

Seems like the guys at Nanjing walking street found their way here. Nike shoe boxes flying all over the place. One risks catching a nasty virus or injuring a limb just to buy a pair of Nike trainers.

We concede and decide to go home and watch the whole second season of Dr. House.

I decide to call up my two babies back in Manila. Luis reminds me to bring his "Incredible Hulk" blanket and his orange veloceraptor.

Aki brags about his swimming lessons. "Mommy, I know how to make bubbles and I can touch the floor of the pool, too."

I feel a lump in my throat, this is a scene perfect for a PLDT ad.

I love watching Dr. House… I'm realizing though it's a good thing

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A different sort of stage mom

By Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo

6:30 A.M.—KIDS GET UP FOR SCHOOL and have breakfast.

7:20 a.m.—Kids leave for school. So I go back to bed and try to catch a little more sleep.

9 a.m.—Finally get out of bed and get myself organized for the day.

9:30 a.m.—Have breakfast. I never skip breakfast, it's my favorite meal. Not to mention my giant mug of coffee, which I don't think I could function without.

10 a.m.—Get dressed and leave for my dance class.

10:30 a.m.—Dance classes begin. It's a Tuesday so it's intermediate Jazz. Always a struggle to get started, and, quite frankly, sometimes I look at myself in the mirror and wonder why I torture myself! Hahaha... But I do love to dance.

12:30 p.m.—Dance class has just ended. Now it's off to a quick shower before heading to an acting workshop.

1 p.m.—Workshop begins. I start off with a short body warm-up before getting into acting exercises. I have wonderful students who are so eager to learn. Makes my job so much fun.

3 p.m.—Acting exercises are over, now we sit and do script analysis and character work. It's so wonderful when your students are part of the creative process and share their ideas. I truly believe acting is a collaboration between actor and director.

4 p.m.—Classes end. I give the class their homework and bid them goodbye.

4:10 p.m.—Head to the supermarket to get some groceries.

5 p.m.—Cook a spinach lasagna for my daughter Nicole, who is experimenting with the idea of being vegetarian. She has actually gone vegetarian for a whole month already and it seems to be working well for her. I check on what my cook Nelia has prepared for my husband and son Luis.

6 p.m.—Dinner with the family.

7 p.m.—I go over my notes and plan tomorrow's set of acting exercises for my workshop.

8 p.m.—Relaxing time now and watching television. Waiting for CSI, one of my favorite shows.

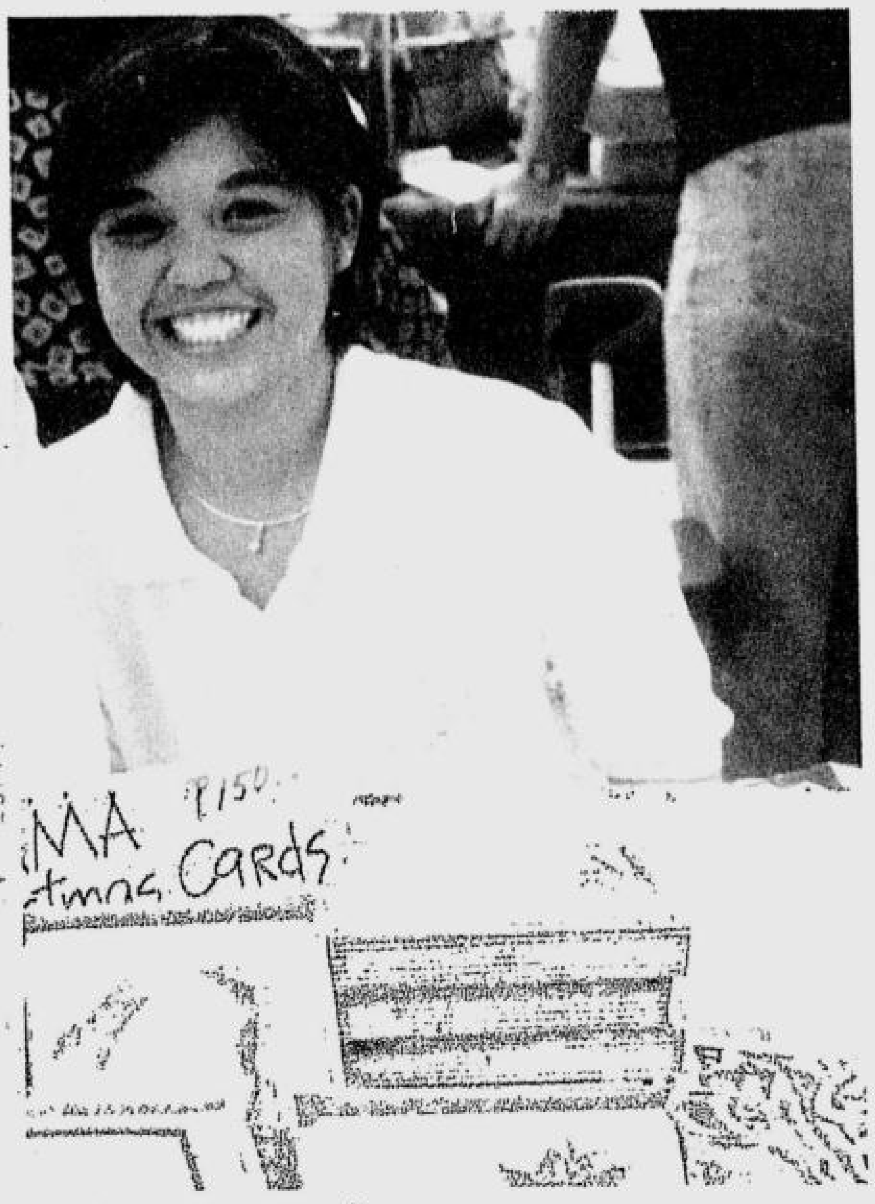
10 p.m.—Getting a little hungry so I have a nice bowl of cereal with cold skim milk. Yummy, I love cereal.

12:30 a.m.—Getting sleepy... Just finishing "The Conan O'Brien Show." Pray and get into my bed for some much-needed shut-eye.

The diarist is one of the country's leading theater actresses, appearing most recently in Repertory Philippines' "Man of La Mancha."

MENCHU Lauchengco-Yulo

Tired mom tries to tire out the kids



AINA Zulueta-Valencia

By Aina Zulueta-Valencia

6:30 a.m.—I WAKE UP AND SAY A prayer of thanks for the start of a new day. The kids are still asleep, and it will be a couple of hours before my husband Carlo gets home from work. (He works evenings at a call center in Makati). It's the golden hour for me as it is usually the only time of the day I have all to myself.

The very first thing I do is to find the newspaper (INQUIRER) and settle into my favorite reading spot. My daughter Samie who is 4, wakes up, finds me and snuggles in as I go through the entire paper leaf by leaf.

No breakfast today. I rush to get ready for an 8 a.m. meeting in the office. I check my e-mail as Juan, my 2-year-old boy, wakes up and, with one eye open, climbs onto my lap. I am late but he wants to see all the pictures in the computer of our recent trip to Baguio. He squeezes his legs around me and won't let go.

I call in to say I am on the way but will be late. Just as I am leaving, Carlo arrives and we say a quick goodbye. All last-minute instructions and reminders to the *yayas* (God bless them!) are made as I make my way out the door.

8:25 a.m.—It's our monthly meeting with merchandise personnel from the different branches. This lasts most of the morning.

11 a.m.—I beg my sister, who is a stylist, to give me a haircut in our training room. How convenient! Bad hair days can be remedied during office hours!

11:30 a.m.—A quick routine call to see if the kids are eating their lunch—who is eating what, are they eating well, who has no appetite... etc., etc. My other sister, my mom and I head out for a working lunch where we begin our weekly board meeting that ends at 4 p.m.

Instructions and reminders to the 'yayas' (God bless them!) are made while rushing to catch an 8 a.m. meeting

4:30 p.m.—A few more meetings with a couple of suppliers and with my office staff. Carlo texts that he is up and plans to bring the kids to the park.

5:30 p.m.—I leave in a rush, anxious to catch up with them. It's a blessing we live close to the office! I catch them playing *habulan*, and my husband smiles at me and says for sure they will sleep early tonight with all that running.

6:30 p.m.—Dinner is almost ready and I help prepare our meal for the day. The two kids are in different stages of eating by themselves. There are mini-threats hurled (by me) on the consequences of eating standing up, spitting food out, and acting like jungle animals at the table. We all spend the remainder of the evening just playing with the kids with all manner of silliness going on.

There are at least two crying spells and fights, quite a few "sorries" and make-up hugs and kisses. To be sure, the two get an earful from me as the house rules of no grabbing, pushing and pulling are enforced, and the "pleases," "thank yous" and (my favorite) "sharing and loving each other" are said constantly like a broken record.

8:30 p.m.—Carlo begs for peace and quiet as he takes a nap just before getting ready for work, which begins at 10 p.m. The kids have found something to keep them busy. A couple pairs of my socks have become winter mittens! They are pretending to be playing in the snow (in the dead of summer, bless their hearts!). They are delighted as I throw in knitted hats, scarves and crumpled white crepe paper balls to approximate a winter wonderland.

Unfortunately this lasts well into the night. So much for the *habulan* tiring them out. The kids bid their dad goodbye in their pajamas as he goes on to his night shift.

11 p.m.—Unbelievably, they are still awake! Incredulous, I flip the pages of the 12th picture book of the night. I am beginning to be an expert on dinosaurs. I make a mental note: no more exciting winter adventures past dinnertime.

11:30 p.m.—A few wee-wee breaks, requests for milk and water, a couple of monotone lullabies and a harried bedtime prayer later, they finally nod off to sleep.

I make a checklist of the things that went on—the bumps massaged, booboos inspected, itches scratched, butts washed and tears wiped. It doesn't get any better than this.

The diarist is merchandise manager of the Piandre group of salons.

Mommying beyond quantum physics

By Queena N. Lee-Chua

7:15 A.M.—THE SUN IS MY ALARM CLOCK. Rituals down to bare essentials. Sole beauty regimen: Cetaphil cleanser, which my husband Smith and our 7-year-old son Scott share. When people compliment my skin, I say, "Cetaphil, good genes and no makeup."

7:30 a.m.—Smith en route to the office. Scott is practicing script penmanship. We hug. Haircut yesterday, he now rubs his head and laughs. "It tickles!" Scientifically impossible to tickle oneself, but life should be full of small pleasures, so I hold my tongue.

Capital L, hard to master, loops and whirls. Scott's tongue out slightly, focusing hard, like Michael Jordan, my husband says. I stare at Scott's face, my male replica but with his dad's mouth, and kiss him suddenly. Scott announces, "Script is just like drawing!" Brilliant way of looking at it, highly motivating. Handwriting, like any other endeavor, is fun when viewed from the correct perspective.

7:45 a.m.—We read a little Mandarin. Unlike phonetic English or Filipino, Chinese is more abstract, its characters harder to learn, requiring more practice. Math is similar. When exposed to Chinese or Japanese language early, children learn math more readily. Raise them in a culture of diligence and perseverance, and voila! No wonder East Asians excel in math.

8 a.m.—One hour before school. I hurriedly dictate math exercises. "Back for lunch, Mom, promise?" Hopeful glint in his eye. "It's summer. You know I only teach half days." "Yey!" both his arms raised into the air. His joyful shout in my ears, I grab some Skyflakes and head to the car.

8:15 a.m.—Before Scott was born, I used to drive to school, but a difficult pregnancy depleted me. I never used to have colds; now I have leg aches, stomach troubles, clogged sinuses, allergies. Perhaps I am just getting old. Car time is precious and private. I munch on crackers and say morning prayers.

8:30 a.m.—No time to refine my lecture. A former student "needs to talk." Problems with family, grades, girlfriend. How to cope? He is smart; he already knows what to do. I listen as he discusses options. He walks me to class. "Thank you, Ma'am. You've been a great help." Not in terms of advice, surely, since I have long realized that what young people need is not as much admonition as a willing ear.

9 a.m. —I have class with 106 students, selected for this course on non-routine problem solving. In 2000, Ateneo president Fr. Ben Nebres decided to instill mental toughness, clarity, perseverance in our youth so they could confront problems well. Class rules: "Anything goes, except cheating. Any solution is acceptable, as long as you can defend it." We tackle symmetry. As usual, some creative solutions.

10:30 a.m.—Another gifted class, this time the best high-school juniors in the country, exposed to college-level work. In the first exam on matrices, out of 65 students, more than 10 get A's, with some perfect scores. I am pleased but not surprised; with the right environment, anyone can learn complex math. We segue into linear programming, maximizing profit, minimizing costs, managing resources. Who says math is not tied to real life?

12 noon—Want to go home, but another student awaits, wants to shift out of science and into humanities. Many cons (back subjects, radical shift, reluctant parents); one overriding pro (she loves the arts). Call me a romantic, but I have always subscribed to the writer/minister Frederick Buechner's dictum that our mission is where the deepest needs of our soul and the world's most urgent hunger meet. Art is what she craves, and certainly our world needs more humanity. After counseling her not to forgo science altogether, I extract a promise that she will do her best in the new field.

12:45 p.m.—Text: "Mom, are you on the way back?" From you-know-who and correctly spelled, thank goodness. Scott borrows his grandpa's cell to text us, supposedly only for urgent stuff. I guess this counts as urgent since I did promise to be home for lunch. In workshops, I tell parents not to break promises made to their kids. I should walk my talk. Swift goodbye to colleagues.

1 p.m.—Check papers in the car. Graph theory assignments. I have perfected the art of correcting papers anywhere: on the plane, in the parlor, in the canteen. To be sure, I love teaching and I live for the times when my students finally comprehend something (Eureka!). But checking papers is a different story altogether.

1:20 p.m.—Home, but only six papers corrected. Sigh. 100 more to go. Quick lunch, chicken, rice, mango, yogurt. Health books say we should mindfully savor every bite, but tell that to my kid, now calling from the stairs, "Mom, I have something to tell you!"

Actually, lots of things. Scott launches into a litany: math was easy (okay, more challenges next time), book was funny (note, more Roald Dahl), chicken instead of fish for lunch (sorry, no go). Then his nap. I check more papers.

4:30 p.m.—"Mom, let's swim!" I have lost track of time. In shirt and shorts, Scott runs toward the pool. I yell at him to wait before jumping into the deep end, and quickly don my own suit. Summer is my favorite time. No gasps at the cold, no frantic laps to warm up; the water is just right. I trail Scott for a couple of laps: "Straighten your legs more! Close your fingers!" Scott has asthma, and swimming is good for him. For me, too. Basketball is not kind to knees, nor running to flat feet.

In between laps, Scott and I chase, splash, dive. Finale: carrying Mom in his arms. Flat on my back, I look up at his dear face, framed by the cloudless sky. "Why are you able to carry me?" "Because there's less gravity." "We're not on the moon." He thinks. "The water carries you also." Yes! I exult as he beams and gives me a kiss. I cradled this boy for a year, and in his arms now, I catch a glimpse of the future, where our roles will be reversed. "How do you feel?" I ask softly. "I feel proud, Mommy. Very proud." Would that this moment will last forever.

Scott has asthma, and swimming is good for him. For me, too. Basketball is not kind to knees, nor running to flat feet

5 p.m.—Check my e-mail. Heart sinks. Inbox (58). Irrationally hope that most are spam. No luck. From readers: comments, queries, suggestions. Professional requests: to referee manuscript, to send journal reprint, to evaluate government program. Invitations for speaking engagements.

Beside me, Scott at an old computer, revising his poem. After learning about Rizal last year, he composed a poem in English (which

appeared in th
Inquirer). But
started a few
change?" I rea
think of anothe
aban,' because
same line." He
tional Anthem.
Call me a proud
be. Here is Scot

"Ang Wataw
Tatlong bitui
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sa panahon n
Mga bayani
gamit ng pen
naglaban sa

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A sylvan day for gallery owner-mom

By Silvana Diaz

8 a.m.—TODAY, MAY 2, 2006, IS THE birthday of my father-in-law: Pappy Pichion to the family, but Mr. Jaime Diaz to the whole world.

I say my thanks to God for the many blessings I received.

I take breakfast: orange juice, yogurt, papaya, toast and Italian coffee, of course.

I converse with my husband, Ramon Diaz, about his new commissioned paintings: oil-in-canvas works of beautiful koi fish.

I watch the news on TV: BBC and CNN. I check the news in the INQUIRER: the political crisis still continues, but much promise on the job front for young workers in call centers and business process outsourcing. The Philippine youth is fueling the change so a lot of support and scholarships must be given to young people with promise!

I organize the daily activities and goals for my house helpers and the gardener. The garden is very beautiful with all the orchids and flowers abloom. I go back into the house to organize lunch for husband and our Spanish guest, Marta, who is helping Filipino farmers get new-technology peanut shellers.

9 a.m.—I take a cool shower and prepare for my appointments.

I go to the office and check e-mails as well as appointments. Give instructions to my secretary, Thess, on what to follow up and her assignments for the day.

I drive to my appointment at the Pia (Philippine-Italian Association).

10 a.m—Meeting with Pia members, art historians and researchers on a planned publication on an artist's artistic career.

12:30 p.m.—Lunch with Alice Guillermo, one of the Philippine's foremost art writers, at Café Puccini at the Fort. We talk about our project and her future trips over very good Italian food.

2 p.m.—Go to the bank.

3 p.m.—Go back to my office to finalize plans for the exciting exhibition of Australian artist Tony Twigg on May 6.

4 p.m.—Meet clients in the gallery who are viewing the exhibition by modern artists Romulo Olazo and Jonathan Olazo.

5 p.m.—Meeting with clients. I bring them around the gallery. I help them look for paintings best suited to their house and personalities.

6 p.m.—Go to mass with my husband, Ramon, in Don Bosco-Makati to commemorate the birthday of my father-in-law, Jaime Diaz.

7 p.m.—I buy ice cream in Amici, the most authentic and delicious ice cream in Manila. It's at Don Bosco church in San Lorenzo. We then go to dinner in the house of my sister-in-law, Georgie.

8 p.m.—Dinner with my in-laws—Joe Diaz, Gloria, Aurora, Georgie—their husbands and children. We all come together to celebrate the life of my late father-in-law. The dinner is great—pasta, *lechon*, salads, cheeses and ice cream. Meals with my Filipino family are always a party. At least 10 to 20 people are around the table everyday.

9 p.m.—I watch a DVD made by my late sister-in-law Rio Diaz for her family and friends that shows a composite of moments of her father's family life and an interview by Isabel made for her father. Everybody laughs and cries. We feel so close to one another. We feel so much love from our Pappy Pichon. Even many years after his passing, he keeps us all united.

10 p.m.—We reminisce about the beautiful moments. We kiss and say goodbye.

I call my children through Skype, the voice-over Internet phone system. My daughter Romina is in Florence on an art scholarship from the Italian government. My son Marco is working in London for a private equity firm, and Illac is on a Fulbright scholarship in Boston. I now have an empty nest and feel very lonely without my children close to home. I'm glad, though, that calling them through VoIP is free and that I can talk to them for as long as they want. I know what is going on in their lives and they can always know what is happening at home whenever they get homesick. It's just me and Ramon again, just like it was in the beginning!

11 p.m.—I prepare myself to go to bed. I read "The Judgment of Paris," by King Ross. It's a story about the birth of Impressionist art during Napoleon III's reign and how it clashed with classical art. It focuses on the battle of wills and passion between the Impressionist Manet and the leading Classical painter of the 19th century, Meissonier.

12 midnight—I give thanks to God for having protected and blessed my family, and I pray that I am going to wake up in a peaceful and better world next morning.

SILVANA Ancelloti Diaz (in black) with husband Ramon, daughter Romina, and sons Illac, Marco and Rene

Shagged out . . .

From page D1

I've gotten over my being a hypochondriac. It was a phase I went through after my mother died of cancer when I was 13.

10 p.m.—In bed, beside my 7-year-old, having a perfect bonding moment: This is when we pray together. I teach him to thank God for five things before he goes on with a litany of a wish list. Here goes his prayer:

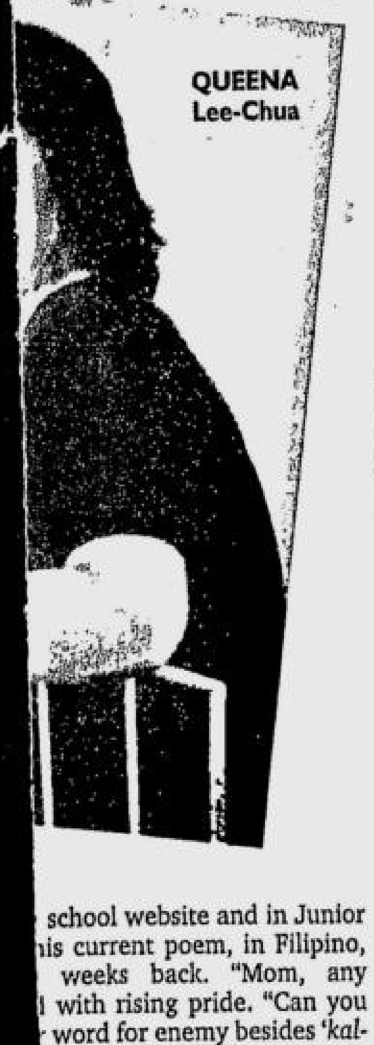
"Dear God, thank you for ummm… giving us food to eat… and uh… for keeping my family healthy. Thank you for making me learn how to draw a spinosaurus. And thank you for a week of no classes. Please God, I wish you could make my mommy go with me to Decathlon tomorrow to buy me a scooter. Please, please, please?!! It's not expensive, God… only 600-plus yuan. And the bike is only uhhm… 1,000-plus. Please God please?"

And he turns to me with his innocent, docile look, and I say, "Don't look at me, I'm not God!"

I begin to pray:

"Dear God, please forgive Quito for he does not know what he is saying."

The diarist was one of the country's most sought-after fashion designers until she and her three boys decided to settle in Shanghai, where her husband works, a little over a year ago. She'll be back in Manila starting tomorrow for a short vacation and to open her bridal showroom.



QUEENA Lee-Chua

school website and in Junior
his current poem, in Filipino,
weeks back. "Mom, any
l with rising pride. "Can you
word for enemy besides '*kal-*
you already used '*laban*' in the
uddenly launches into the Na-
until, "*manlulupig*!" Perfect.
mom, but I have every right to
's version so far:
t"

, isang araw,
at pula
pa at langit
g giyera at kapayapaan.

at espada
nanlulupig

kahit na sila ay mamatay.
Makabayan sila
ibinigay ang kanilang buhay
para sa lahat
mga tunay na Pilipino.

Half-jokingly: "Scott, how about doing a poem in Mandarin?"

8 p.m.—Dinner over. Smith takes out three truffles. I think of Ria, my thesis advisee. Conscientious and responsible, Ria and her group researched on the effects of acceleration programs on public school students. To my delight Ria intends to teach, too. Two weeks ago, she sent a bag of truffles, with a note: "You once told us that if we were going to eat chocolate we might as well eat the really rich and wonderfully delicious ones. You also said that you and your husband enjoy a piece every so often. Enjoy!"

Thank you, Ria. Smith and I relish a truffle each. Scott is allergic to chocolate.

8:15 p.m.—VCD of "Voltes V," our high-school staple. At least we know its content. Many shows today have gratuitous violence; I don't fully trust children's channels on air. Smith reads finance reports while I check papers. Scott sits mesmerized: "Let's volt in!"

9 p.m.—Father-son bonding hour. I shoo them both to the next room. I am lucky—my husband is also a great dad! Magic tricks, board games and plastic sword battles.

10 p.m.—Scott off to bed. I am still deep in paperwork.

11 p.m.—Twenty-five papers left. They can wait. Smith already in bed. Before offing my cell (always in silent mode), I notice 12 texts, blessedly from friends. Before brushing my teeth, I eat one last truffle.

The diarist is an associate professor of math and psychology at the Ateneo de Manila University.

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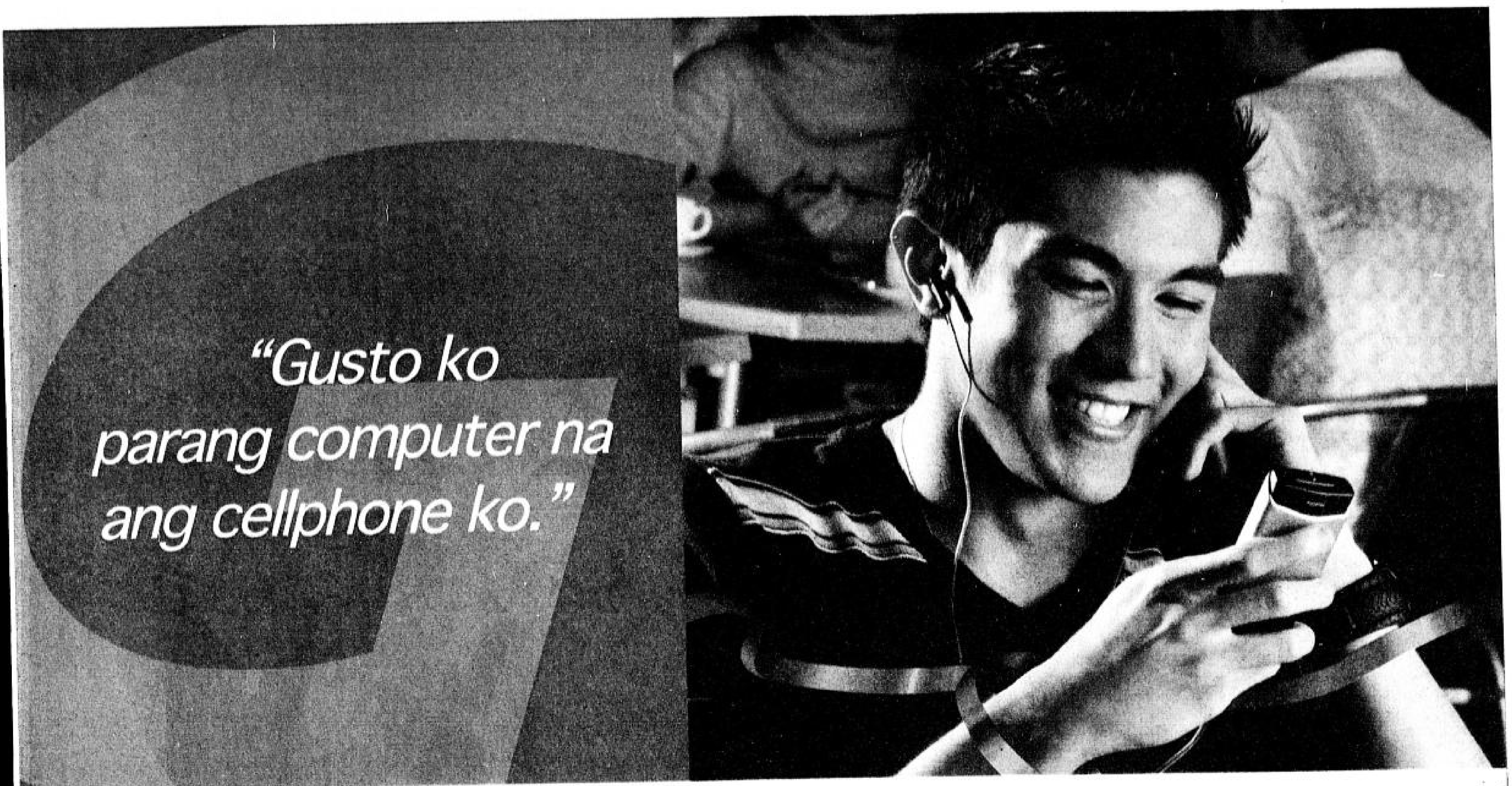

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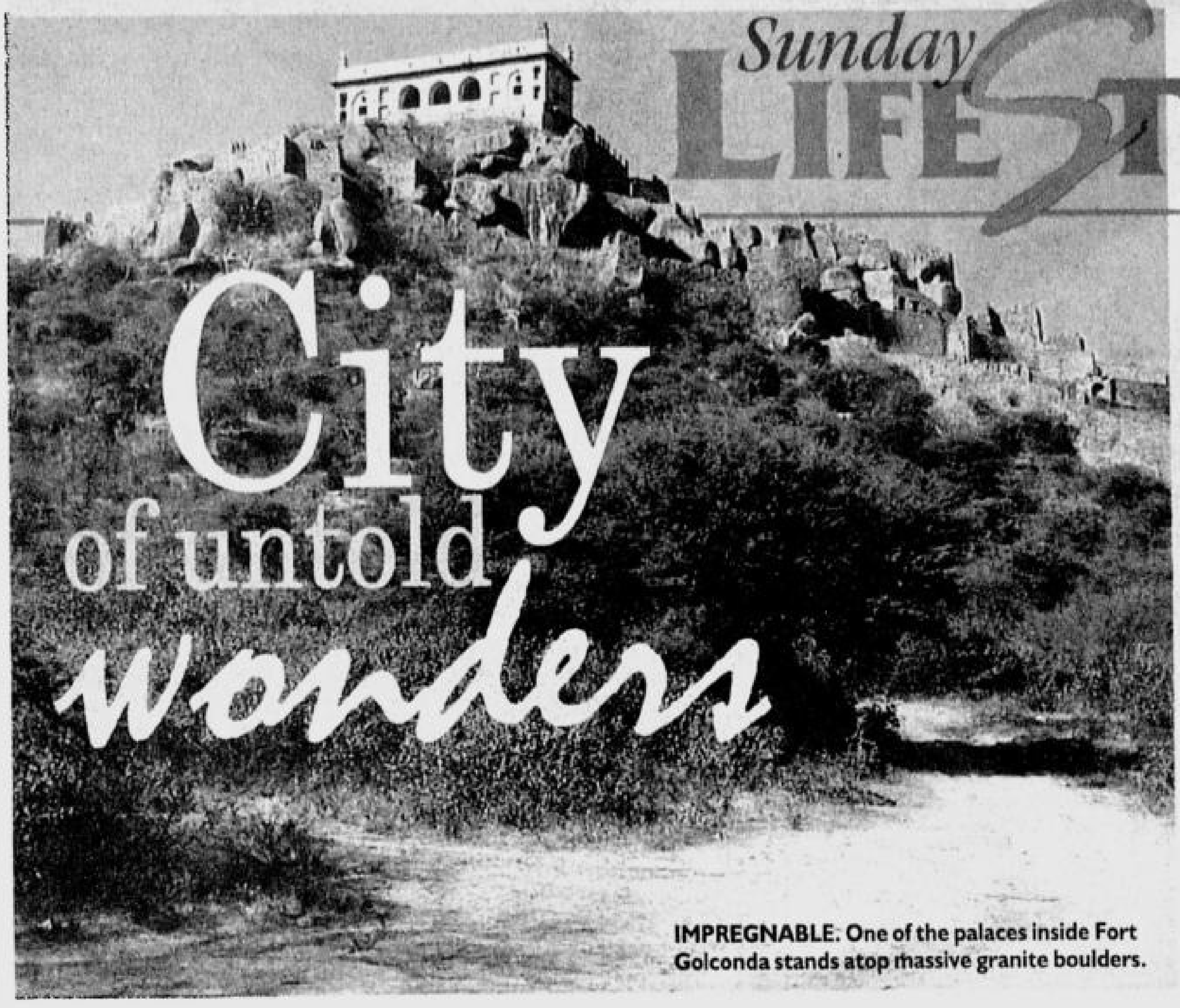

City of untold wonders

IMPREGNABLE: One of the palaces inside Fort Golconda stands atop massive granite boulders.

Hyderabad, now one of India's infotech hubs, was once a glittering royal capital

Text and photos by Hazel P. Villa
PDI Visayas Bureau

PLACE OF PEARLS. HOME OF THE Kohinoor Diamond. Budapest of India. City of a Thousand Faces. Shopper's Paradise. "Cyberabad."

Hyderabad, one of the foremost cities of ancient India and currently its fifth largest city, goes by many names and attractions that the tourist is hard put where to begin.

This capital of Andhra Pradesh State in southern India at 416 years old can take up most of your time, and yet leave you asking for more of its ancient and natural wonders that

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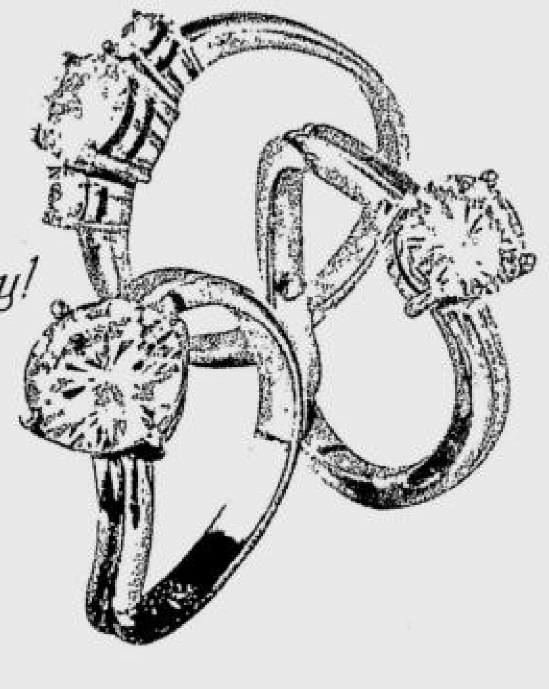

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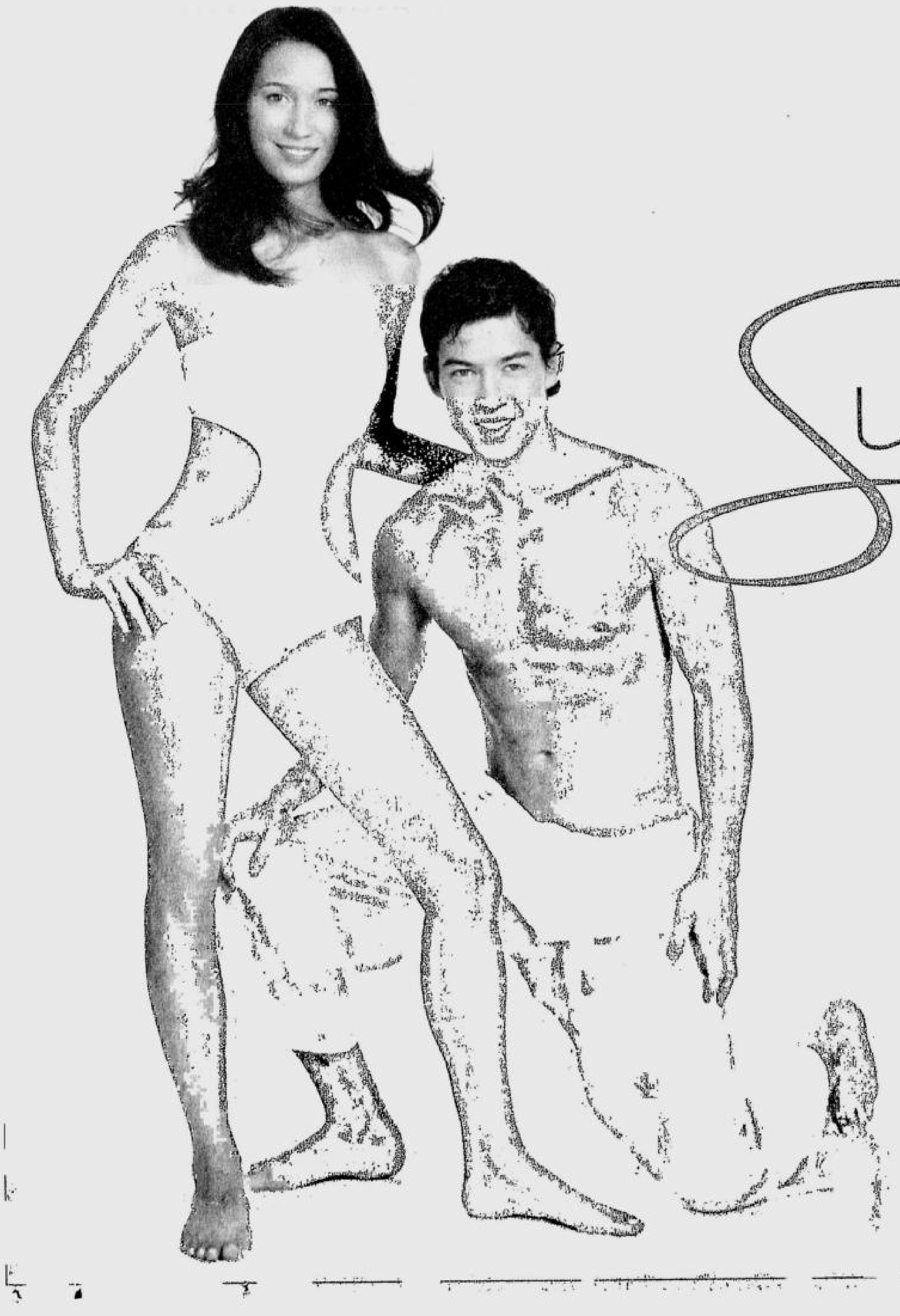

Meet the 2006 Century Tuna Superbods
Michele Padua & Jon Mullaly

At the Century Tuna Superbods Beachfest in Boracay last April 29, we found this perfect pair to embody the clean and healthy Century Tuna lifestyle.

They won P500,000 each as Century Tuna's new image models.

Michele and Jon have fit bodies, glowing skin, and active lifestyles that they attribute to their diet of protein-packed and Omega-3 rich Century Tuna.

To Superbods Michele & Jon, congratulations!

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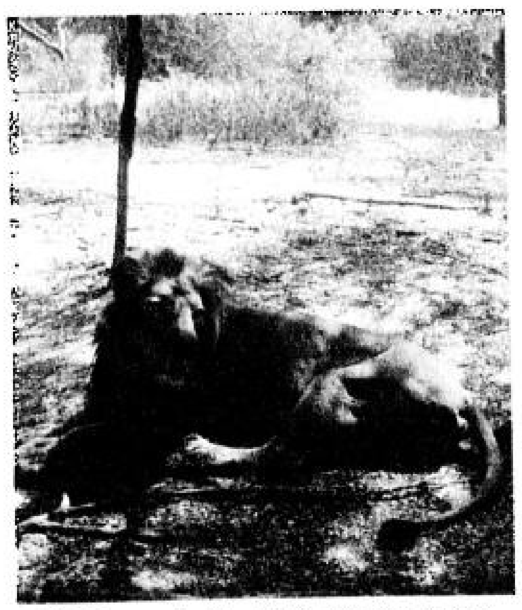
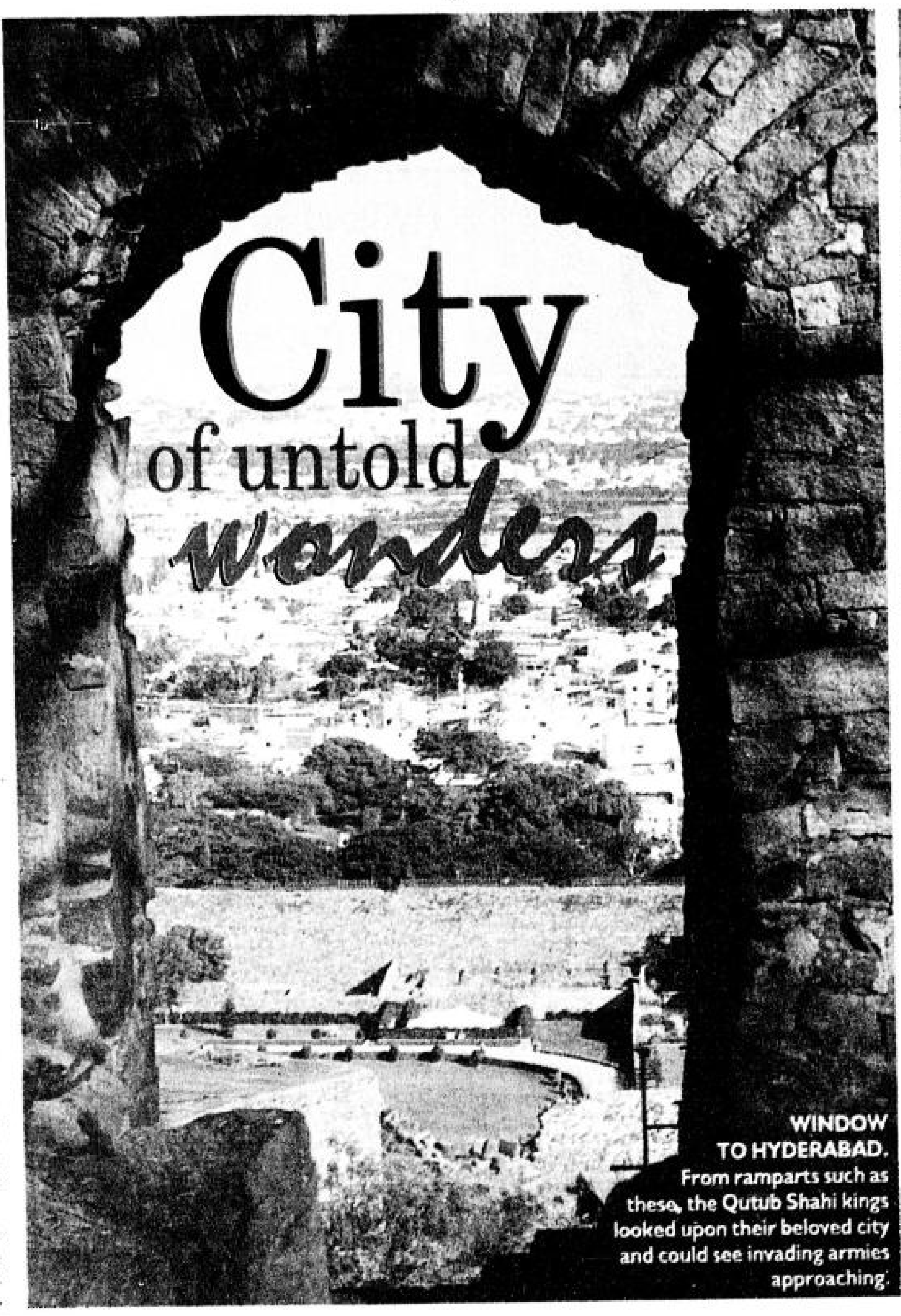


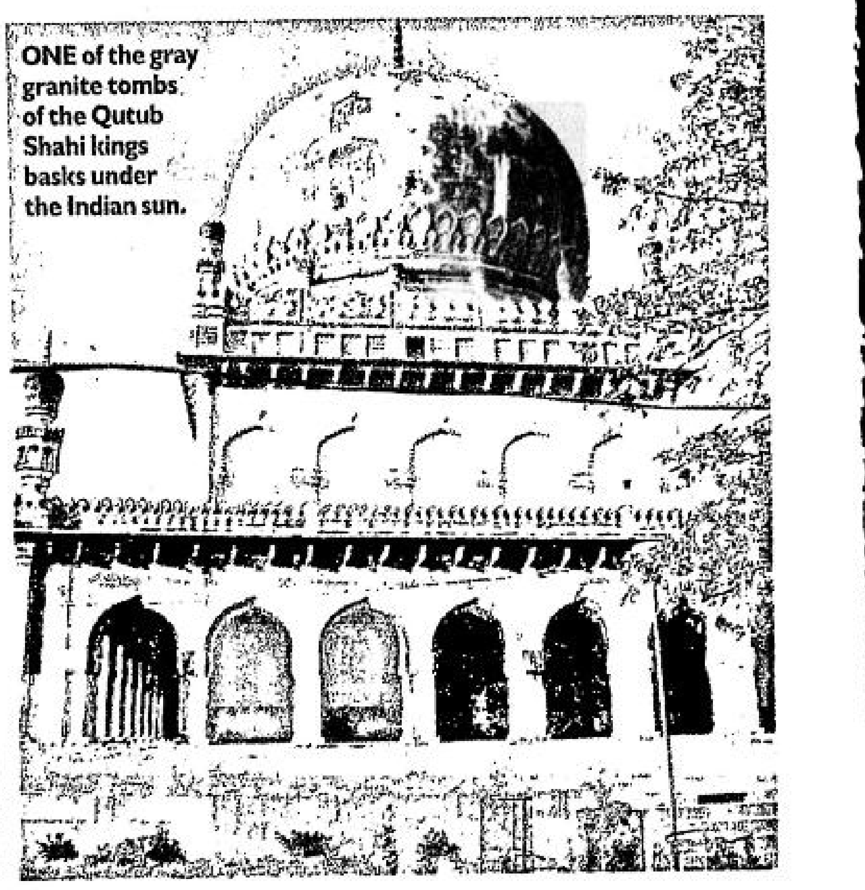
A LION stares lazily at visitors to the Nehru Zoological Park, the biggest zoo in India and home to over 1,500 kinds of birds and animals.

City of untold wonders



WINDOW TO HYDERABAD. From ramparts such as these, the Qutub Shahi kings looked upon their beloved city and could see invading armies approaching.

HUGE stone stairways built for elephants, now ruined, are difficult to conquer for the Filipino visitors.



ONE of the gray granite tombs of the Qutub Shahi kings basks under the Indian sun.

From page E1

sit side by side with the infrastructure and lifestyle haunts of the digital age.

Hyderabad is currently in the running for leadership in information technology in India with its Hi-Tec or "Hyderabad Information Technology Engineering Consultancy" City located at Madhapur in the outskirts of the city. Hi-Tec City is gaining a name as "Cyberabad," with its claims as "the nucleus of IT this side of Asia."

At Hi-Tec City, one loses count of the many software companies from around the world that house office spaces, production areas, and communication facilities. Surrounding them are clubs, hotels, shopping and convention centers. A construction frenzy of high-rises is enveloping the place and one stops short of imagining flying cars whizzing by upon seeing women laboring side by side with the men.

While remaining distinctly Indian in flavor, Hyderabad stands out for its architecture and lifestyle where Islam meets Hinduism. You can see it in the city's minarets, forts, universities, museums, palaces, gardens, pools, tombs of kings, temples, ancient buildings and elegant houses with Persian architecture. Indian women in colorful saris walk beside their Muslim counterparts garbed in black from head to foot.

Where the entire South India is made up of Hindu kingdoms, the Muslim Nawabs held forth and ruled Hyderabad for centuries, thus the prevalence of Islamic culture among its citizens.

My trip to Hyderabad was the start of a Group Study Exchange Tour of South India sponsored by Rotary International. My fellow Ambassadors of Goodwill from Philippines Rotary District 3850 were team leader Emma Nava from Iloilo City and banker Pinky Corona, ABS-CBN Bacolod News Chief Angelo Angolo from Negros Occidental, and Zamboanga tourism staff Abigail Bucoy.

Golconda Fort

Some 11 kilometers west of Hyderabad, an imposing fort of Muslim influence is built on an elongated conical granite hilltop that stands 400 feet high, surrounded by three tiers of loop-holed and battlemented ramparts. It has a perimeter of about seven miles.

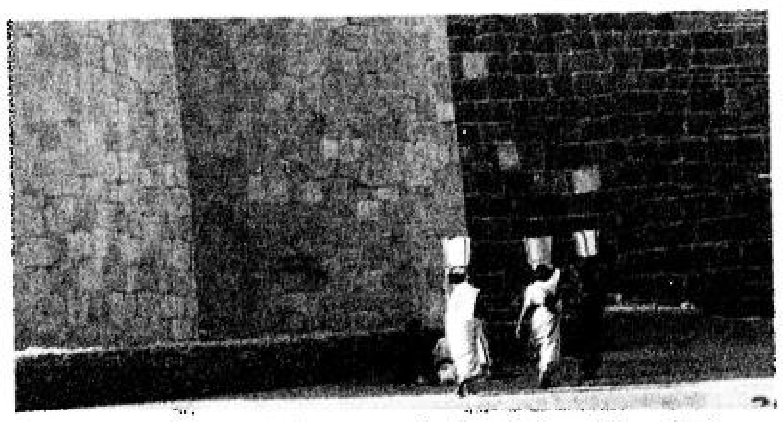
Built by Ganpati, the Kakatiya King of Warangal in 1143, the legendary Golconda Fort is the proud producer and trading center of the Kohinoor diamond, considered the world's most precious diamonds, some of which now adorn the British crown.

Golconda historians, however, say that it was Sultan Quli Qutub Shahi, a Persian adventurer and military leader who made Golconda his capital in 1512 A.D, that made the fort the military wonder that it is now. He also founded Hyderabad in 1589.

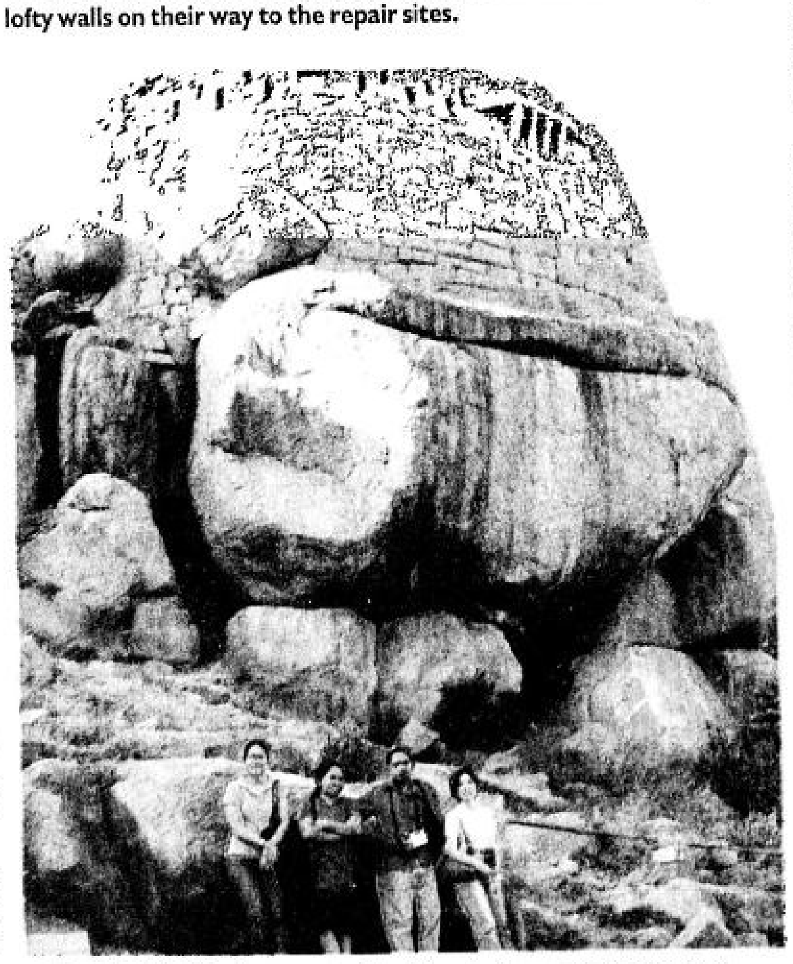
The Qutub Shahi military architecture and engineering is astounding in view of the fort's 87 semi-circular bastions ranging 50-70 ft high and 25-50 ft in width on which heavy cannons were mounted to fortify the fort.

Golconda Fort has a cluster of palaces, water reservoirs and pipe lines, stable, armory hill, guard rooms, jail, ammunition store houses, mosques and temple, gates at cardinal points, curtain fortification wall and an inner fortification wall.

The Hyderabadi guide explained that at the entrance, called the Gate of Balahisar, was where the molten lead and hot boiling oil was poured on invading elephants and soldiers.



HYDERABADI women laborers pass by Fort Golconda's ancient, lofty walls on their way to the repair sites.



THE STRATEGIC placement of boulders to form a battlemented rampart is lost on Rotary Group Study Exchange Team members Abigail Bucoy, Hazel Villa, Angelo Angolo and Pinky Corona.

One of the major tourist attractions of Golconda Fort is the acoustic communications where the sound from a clapping hand in the center porch of the Grand Portico can be heard at a certain point of the hill. The audience hall and the porch were apparently constructed in such a way that any arrival at the porch could be heard by the king and his guards. Such is the wonder of Qutub Shahi military architecture.

But despite the ingenious military engineering and probably because of envious military rulers around the fort, Golconda lost a battle in 1363 and became a part of the Bahmani Kingdom. And in 1687, the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb and his army forced their way through till Golconda was no more.

Golconda Fort, true to the Hyderabadi thrust of lording it over the digital world, becomes alive at night after the Andhra Pradesh Tourism Development Corp. Ltd. introduced the enthralling 55-minute interplay of light and sound that recalls Hyderabad's legendary past. The tourism authority claims the light and sound show as "undoubtedly the finest in the country because of its large canvas spanning the entire fort area."

Grand Qutub Shahi Tombs

Bollywood, with its constant search for exotic shooting locations, has turned to the Qutub Shahi Tombs for film shootings. About three kilometers northwest of Golconda Fort, the tombs of the Qutub Shahi kings and their relatives have a characteristic Muslim style with Persian, Pathan and Hindu touches.

The domes are built on a square base surrounded by a gallery of pointed arches that are single storied for minor tombs and double storied for larger ones. The name of the king, period of reign and date of his death are inscribed in the entrance of every tomb.

The color of the tombs is gray granite and is embellished with stucco ornamentation. Sadly, however, the tombs where seven out of eight sultans are buried are now in a state of disrepair and the original gardens and adjacent mosques are just sad testaments to a bygone glory.

Zoo, museums and pearl shops

Hyderabad is a "City of a Thousand Faces" where you can mix a visit to the zoo and museums with shopping in just a day.

The Nehru Zoological Park is the biggest zoo in India and is home to more than 1,500 kinds of birds and animals. Lions and Bengal tigers lie sunbathing on huge slabs of rock and are indifferent to the thousands of tourists who attempt to make them move by whistling and shouting.

The lush overgrowth and greenery gives the zoo a safari feel as several buses filled with tourists and delighted children take different routes around the zoo of 300 acres. The zoo also has a natural museum, a prehistoric park, mini train and animal rides.

A visit to Hyderabad is not complete unless you visit the Salarjung Museum, which claims to have the largest private collection in the world started by Nawab Turab Ali Khan and Nawab Salarjung III, with 43,000 art objects and 50,000 books in the 38 rooms of the three-story building.

This museum also houses a dizzying array of European and Indian paintings and statuary. The Jade Room contains priceless objects that belonged to ancient Indian rulers such as Aurangazeb, Tipu Sultan, Shah Jahan and the Asaf Jahs of Hyderabad.

As it always is after a government-sponsored tour, your tour bus will surely stop at a shopping center that highlights the best a locale can offer. In our case, it was a stopover at Abids, Hyderabad's most popular shopping area known for textiles, handicrafts, footwear, garments and, most especially, pearls.

Pearls and diamonds happen to be the specialty of Hyderabad jewelers. The rulers of Hyderabad were said to be so enamored with the lustrous, creamy beads that traders brought their very best to the city. Craftsmen soon followed and through the generations, Hyderabadis became known for "unmatched craftsmanship and low labor costs."

This is Hyderabad, a mélange of the ancient and the cosmopolitan—a city of untold wonders that never tires of running after visions.

TRAVELBRIEFS

Guam hosts 19th Micronesia fair

THE 19TH Annual Guam Micronesia Island Fair will be held May 26-28 at the Gov. Joseph Flores Park in Tumon, more popularly known as Ypao Beach.

The annual festival celebrates the colorful culture of the Micronesian people. Chamorros from Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau will showcase their arts, crafts and culture.

Organized by the Guam Visitors Bureau and the Department of Chamorro Affairs, the event caps the month-long celebration of Guam's Tourism Month that aims to promote the United States territory as a destination for leisure travelers, culture and history buffs, and adventure seekers.

Call the Guam Visitors Bureau Philippine office at 7277755 or visit www.visitguam.org.

'Pasalubong'

Jonathan Jay P. Aldeguer, president of Islands Souvenirs Inc., was named Small Business Entrepreneur during the recent Entrepreneur of the Year Philippines awards ceremonies. Aldeguer was cited for demonstrating management excellence in business with assets of less than P100 million. Wilson Ng, president and CEO of Ng Khai Development Corporation and 2004 Small Business Entrepreneur, and Zorayda Amelia Alonzo, undersecretary of the Department of Trade and Industry, presented him with the award.

Theme park

Genting Theme Park in Malaysia offers over 50 rides for all ages. It is one of the main attractions in Genting, the City of Entertainment. Its six hotels, with 7000 rooms, can accommodate more than 12,000 people at any time. Unlimited rides can be enjoyed in both Outdoor and Indoor Theme Parks for P585 (adult) and P345 (child). A family package with two adults and two children is available for P1,495. Contact 8120770/8174581 or visit www.tourismmalaysia.gov.my.

Pilgrimage

Marian devotees and pilgrims wishing to attend the 5th World Congress of Families in Valencia, Spain, may want to join an extension tour of Marian religious sites.

The 15-day tour includes visits to the World Congress of Families in Valencia, Spain; Barcelona, Montserrat, and Zaragoza in Spain; Lourdes, France; Madrid, Salamanca and Avila in Spain; and Fatima, Lisbon and Santarem in Portugal.

Call 8154938/6925.

Caravan

Island Caravan offers Pinatubo challenge with its day tour "Majestic Climb" on May 20. The group will meet in Clarkfield then visit the Capas National Shrine in Tarlac before driving up to the Pinatubo base camp for various activities. The complete "Majestic Climb" program is available for P3,000. Participants who want to bring their own vehicles pay P2,500. This option is inclusive of guided tours, 4x4 vehicles for the mountain route, and travel insurance. Call Island Caravan at 8961910, 8967569 and 8961893 or e-mail inquiry@islandcaravan.com.

Northern tour

Inscribe Tours will mount separate guided tours to Vigan-Ilocos and Banaue-Sagada May 25-28. Aside from Vigan, a World Heritage city, the tour will go to Ilocos Norte—Laoag, Paoay, Batac and Pagudpud.

The Banaue tour will have the Rice Terraces for centerpiece, and will include interesting places in the Cordillera region like the Valley of Echoes, Sumaging and Lumiang caves, Beyer and Bontoc museums, and Sagada.

Call 8405912, 5758370 or 0919-8184697.

Award

Emirates, the Dubai-based airline, received Best Airline Overall serving the Middle East, Airline with the Best Business Class, Best Regional Airline for the Middle East, Airline with the Best Cabin Staff, and Airline with the Best Frequent Flyer Program at the latest Business Traveler Middle East Awards. Held annually, the awards are determined by survey results.

Emirates serves the Middle East region with 145 weekly flights to 12 cities, offering approximately 4.5 million seats.

Asian theme

Batangas' Virgin Beach Resort has the widest and cleanest beach along the Laiya, Batangas, coastline. It was designed by owner Butch Campos and has a multi-Asian theme. Less than three hours away from Manila, it offers French cuisine and the famous Batangas coffee, among others. Water, air and mountain activities such as fishing, parasailing, jetskiing and trekking in Mt. Daguldol are available to guests. Visit www.virginbeachresort.com.

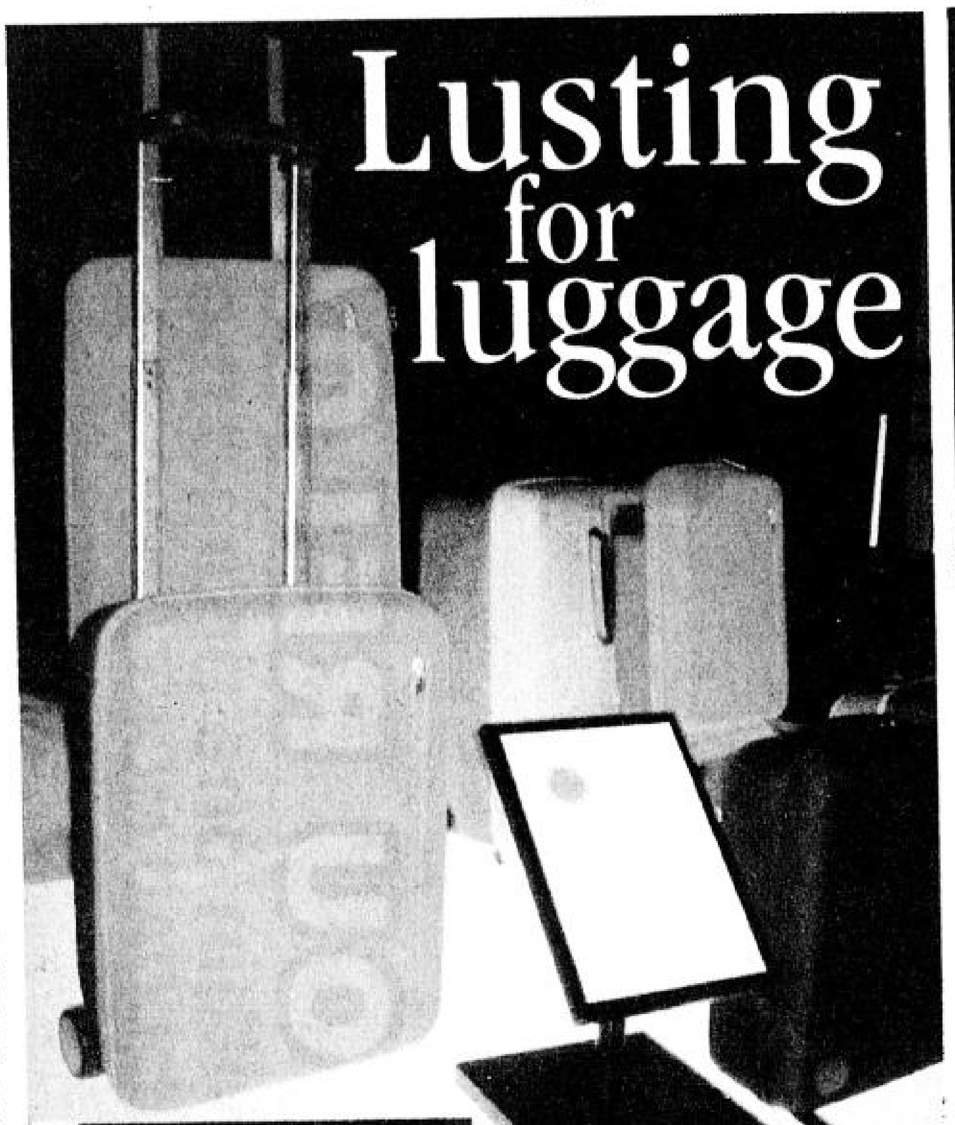
Lake resort

Punta Isla Resort in Lake Sebu, owned by Mayor Romolu Solivio of Surallah and his wife, has swimming pools and cottages with an excellent view of the scenic Lake Sebu. Guests can go on boat rides on the lake. Other attractions include the Sepaka Spring, Stair to Heaven, Floating Restaurant, cultural dances, parades, fiestas and festivals.

Lake Danao tour

The Tourist Service Cooperative of Brgy. Danao offers tours of Lake Danao Natural Park in Ormoc City, Leyte. The protected area has floating cottages and boasts of a wide variety of flora and fauna. Lake Danao rests on a valley about 700 ft above sea level.

Lusting for luggage



Life's a journey, the new ad campaign of Samsonite states. So is choosing the right travel bag

PRETTY PRINTS. The Signat's playful interior

Text and photos by Pam Pastor

LET'S FACE IT. WHILE YOU MAKE careful decisions about the bags or the shoes you buy—sometimes even lusting over them for weeks before finally deciding to make the purchase—you don't really give luggage much thought.

Even the reading world's favorite shopaholic Becky Bloomwood neglected luggage shopping until her epiphany of sorts, which she recalls in "Shopaholic Takes Manhattan." "I suppose I have been buying quite a bit of luggage recently. But the thing is, for ages I didn't have any, just one battered old canvas bag. Then, a few months ago I had an incredible revelation in the middle of Harrods, a bit like St. Paul on the road to Mandalay. Luggage. And since then, I've been making up for all the lean years."

Samsonite, which has been providing the world with quality travel bags since 1910, wants to change the way you shop for luggage. Maybe not as dramatically, but close.

To achieve this goal, Marcelo Bottoli, president and chief executive officer of Samsonite Corp., has hired Quentin Mackay as the company's new global creative director.

"I made a search which lasted a long time. I met a number of people and I finally found the best person for this job. Quentin is very complete. He has an engineering background which gives him all the technical skills he needs to understand the functional side of our business, and he comes from a high-end brand of ladies' handbags and that gives him all the style."

Injecting emotion

Mackay, who used to be an accessory designer at luxurious leather brand Loewe and a creative director for the English brand Tanner Krolle, is responsible for "injecting emotion" into Samsonite's new collections.

NEXT BIG THING. People say Samsonite's Signat might become the next must-have for women.

MARC Newson's Scope collection on display in Hong Kong

He says, "With handbags and shoes, it's such an emotional purchase. We want to turn the Samsonite consumer from a passive consumer to an active consumer. A passive consumer would go into a department store, see a sea of luggage and buy Samsonite because their grandmother had it, their father had it. An active consumer would walk into a department store, see a Samsonite Black Label product and think, "I love that. I've got to have that."

Mackay says emotion will be injected by introducing more stylish and more design-based lines.

But he is quick to stress that functionality will never be compromised. "It's a 50-50 balance. We have one fundamental thing to maintain and that is the function. The moment we start to play with the function is the moment we have problems with the luggage because we're not giving the consumer what they expect from Samsonite. Once we have that function, we can style on top of it. It has to be a marriage of style and function."

AN EXHIBIT of vintage trunks from the '60s

Bottoli, who used to be the CEO of Louis Vuitton, says of his relationship with Mackay, "It's always very important between somebody who runs the business and somebody who does the creation to get along, to have chemistry, and we get along perfectly. We don't have to talk to each other sometimes, we just think alike. Competence and chemistry—that's what made me choose Quentin. He's really a business partner for me and vice versa."

Free rein

In addition to hiring Mackay, another step in relaunching Samsonite's Black Label line and breathing new life to the brand is getting Marc Newson, acclaimed international designer and one of Time magazine's "100 Most Influential People" in 2005, to design a line for them, giving him free rein in the process.

"If you want to try and hire a designer of the caliber of Marc Newson and tell him what to do, frankly speaking, you better just save your money and get a young designer and tell him what to do. If you hire a designer of that caliber you have to give him a free hand. Otherwise you're not going to get the best out of him," Bottoli says.

And Marc Newson seems to have gotten his best out. Reviews of his colorful line Scope have been positive around the world.

Life's a journey

Samsonite has also introduced a new campaign with the tagline "Life is a journey."

"The new tagline really epitomizes what we're trying to do with the brand. The campaign concept suggests that the experience of getting there makes life all the more rich and worthwhile, and Samsonite delivers the highly desirable, smartly designed, and more premium products to take along the way," says Bottoli.

The ad campaign features British mogul and the founder of the Virgin empire, Richard Branson, acclaimed Australian designer Marc Newson and world-renowned Spanish flamenco dancer Joaquin Cortes, among others. Bottoli explains the logic behind the choices. "We chose people with certain characteristics. We wanted people who were successful in whatever they did, not successful in one thing. We wanted people that were different."

The desire to stand out has been a part of Samsonite's almost 100 years of history. It pioneered trends and technological advances in the luggage industry. These innovations include the introduction of lightweight products in 1955, the first polypropylene suitcase in 1967, the first suitcase on wheels in 1974, the Oyster case in the 1970s which was the first to have a three-point locking system (it became the fastest-selling suitcase of all time), and the introduction of the first Bluetooth-enabled attaché intelligent business case in 2003.

Bottoli and Mackay are both determined to usher in a new era for Samsonite, Samsonite Black Label and luggage shopping.

Says Mackay, "Handbags and travel accessories have achieved an extremely high aspirational importance to consumers and have become an extension of one's personality. In essence, you are what you carry."

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2. Promo months are: March 1-31, April 1-30 and May 1-31, 2006. Reloads made within a promo month will not be carried over to the next promo month.
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   - Reloads in April cannot be counted in May.
3. Subscribers can accumulate the P400 reload from any combination of Regular Call Cards, Xpress load, 24/7 Call & Text Unlimited, 24/7 Text Unlimited, 24/7 Text Unlimited Lite, Daylite Call and Text Unlimited, IDD Top 10 call cards and Regular e-PINs only.
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2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

OUR GMA photo op

Scuba diving with GMA

Tubbataha rolls out the watery red carpet for a presidential dip

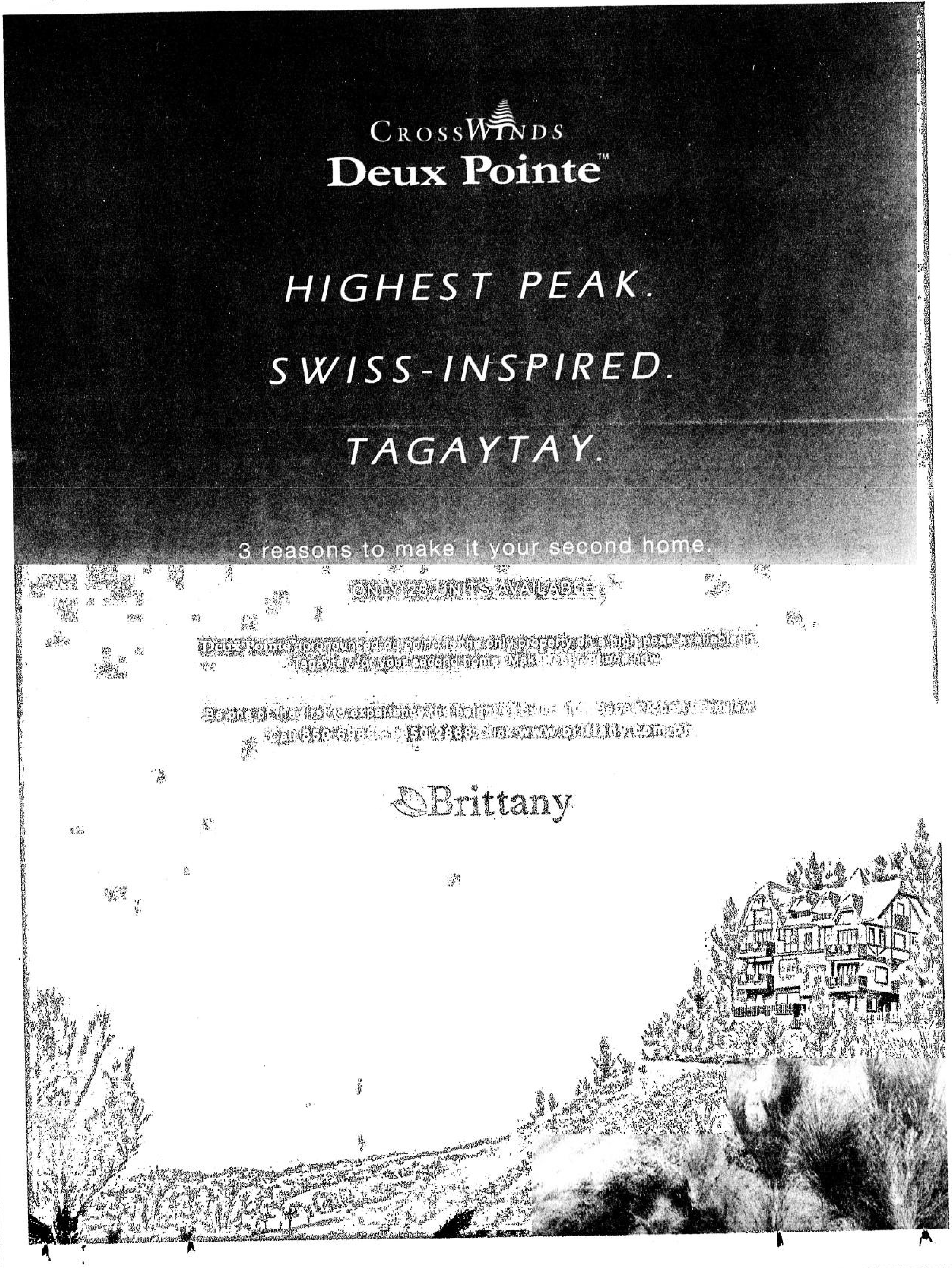
TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

SUMMER HAS SETTLED INTO its glorious peak. With temperatures soaring sky high, we should all enjoy the sun, sea and sand in one of our country's spectacular beaches.

What best displays the pristine beauty of our islands' beaches but Boracay? If there is a single tourist attraction that we can boast about to winter-stricken foreigners and *balikbayans*, I say the powder sands of Bora would win hands down.

SCUBA/ F2



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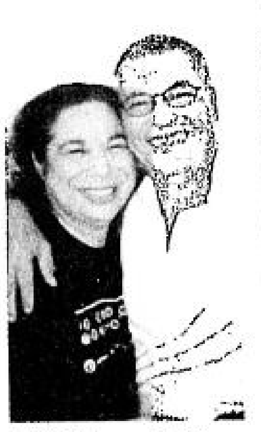
Brittany

COMEDIAN Rex Navarrete doing stand-up in between dives; yoga on the beach with Jon-jon and the Sea Princess (inset)

JELLY Fish Lake swimming by Jing and Toti Turalba

Scuba diving



DIVING couple Mary de Leon and Ed Mijares

WATER lovers Teresa Herrera, Jon-jon Rufino and presidential scuba instructor Gigi Santos

DIVING doctor Adel and Millie Samson

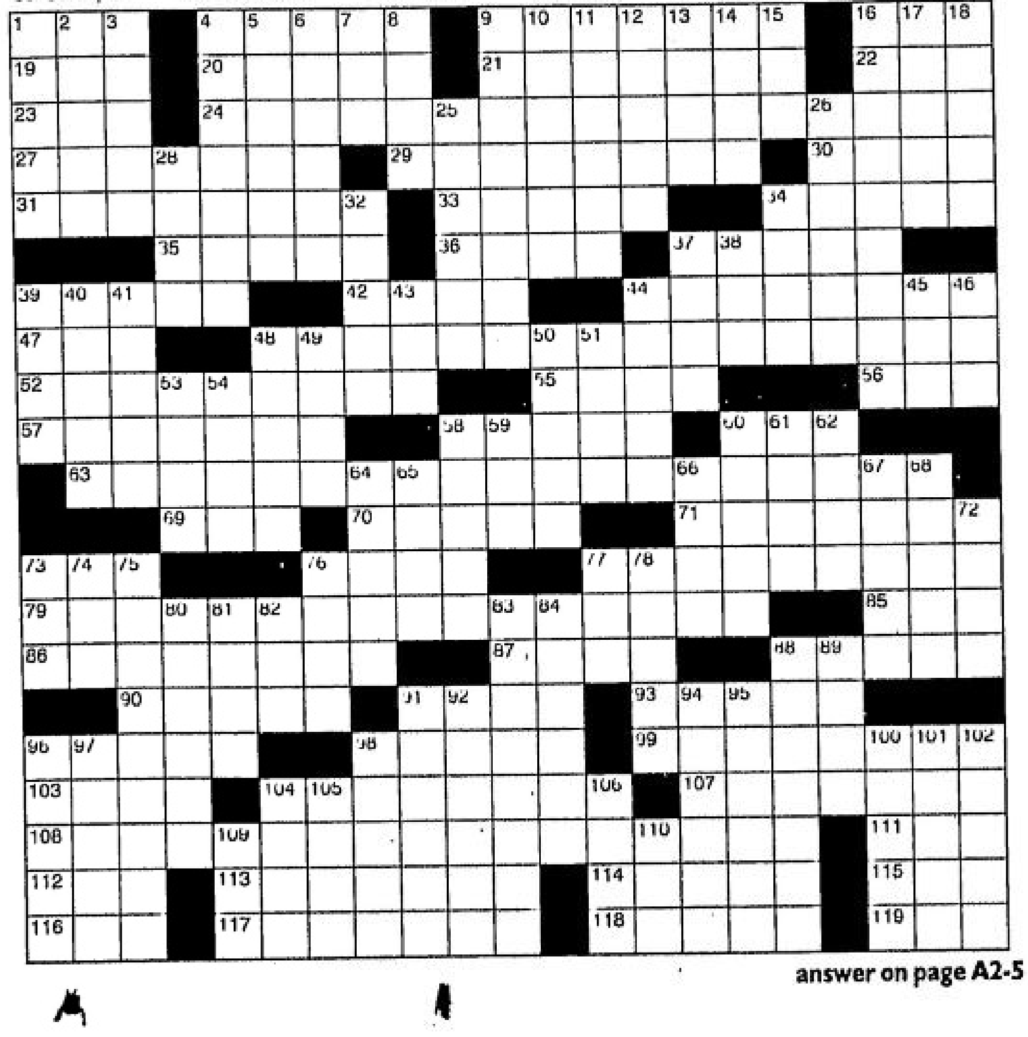
SUNDAY CROSSWORD

PREMIER CROSSWORD/ By Frank A. Longo

UNDERSTAND

ACROSS
1 Yellow vehicle
4 Sea inlet between cliffs
9 Face facts, slangily
16 Singer Sumac
19 Make mistakes
20 Poisonous
21 Shakespeare tragedy
22 Vast time period
23 Fawn bearer
24 Start of a riddle
27 Riddle, part 2
29 Beta carotene, after conversion
30 Met highlight
31 Went back
33 "Olympia" painter Edouard
34 Earthy brown pigment
35 Tunesmith Jule
36 U.S. leader
37 Prefix with economic or political
39 Stockpile
42 Org. that fights for rights
44 Onions' cousins
47 Lobby gp.
48 Riddle, part 3
52 Ballpark figures
55 Wound
56 — -Pitch
57 Mexican-American woman
58 Happy look
60 Scatter
63 Riddle, part 4
69 Baltic, e.g.
70 Tons
71 Informative session
73 "I found it!"
76 Soft mineral
77 Landmark
79 Riddle, part 5
85 B-to-F string
86 Person on the payroll
87 Two-masted ship
88 Garden pest
90 "Justine" star Anouk
91 Posterior
93 "A Bell for —" (Hersey novel)
96 Suit fabric
98 Singer Haggard
99 Ill-fitting title
103 Neighbor of Arizona
104 People in cockpits
107 Start of the riddle's answer
108 End of the riddle's answer
111 Felt cap
112 College URL ending
113 Defamation suit defendant
114 — a time (singly)
115 Suffix with serpent or hero
116 Low- — graphics
117 Barn bins
118 Singer Newton
119 Stubborn critter

DOWN
1 With 76-Down, common conifer
2 Came to light
3 "Grace Under Fire" star Butler
4 Dallas's sister city
5 Baseball's Bench
6 The "O" of H2O
7 Disentangle
8 Nero's 604
9 "I'm outta here"
10 Gas used as a fuel
11 Motifs
12 Kindled anew
13 Oomph
14 Alan of "The West Wing"
15 Myrna of films
16 Annual school publications
17 Flick
18 Lend — (listen)
25 Cheek feature
26 Skater Dorothy
28 Wisconsin senator Feingold
32 Diplomat Silas
34 Bruins' sch.
37 Vaccination
38 Grain bit
39 On — (without a contract)
40 Lieutenant Yar on "Star Trek"
41 Last part of "Aida," e.g.
43 S&L offerings
44 Scatter about
45 Up to the time of
46 — -Cone (summer treat)
48 Tucker of country
49 Abbr. curtailing a list
50 Uppercut targets
51 Christmas
53 Freezes
54 Sire's mate
58 Actor Keach
59 May honoree
60 War-horse
61 Resistance units
62 Tiny bit
64 Sound off
65 Healthy
66 Skye, e.g.
67 Cain raised him
68 "Amazing" debunker
72 Sax insert
73 Pub choice
74 That dude
75 Equipment
76 See 1-Down
77 Cut down
78 Religion of the Koran
80 Negligible
81 Apple, e.g.
82 Sail's "Yes!"
83 Tornado relatives
84 Los Angeles hoopsters
88 Filmdom's Funicello
89 Tigger's pal
91 Snoopy, e.g.
92 More chichi
94 Goofy's creator
95 Garbage barrel
96 Division of Babylonia
97 Piano piece
98 Went for the gold?
100 Godfather's group
101 Heavenly places
102 Demolishes
104 Soul singer India.—
105 Picked-up feeling
106 Put securely away
109 Pixie
110 — nutshell



answer on page A2-5

From page F1

For 10 years now, Asian Spirit has been flying to Caticlan, the small airport giving the best access to Boracay's mile-long beachfront. As Bora becomes even more popular, the airline offers numerous flights daily.

At its luau-themed 10th anniversary celebration, graced no less than President **Macapagal-Arroyo**, Asian Spirit raffled off several trips to Bora and other destinations. In her impromptu speech, the President mentioned that it was great that Asian Spirit has "missionary" flights serving hundreds of Filipinos daily. Asian Spirit is operated by the Airline Employees Cooperative, the first local cooperative in the airline industry. From its humble beginnings, they have soared as sky high as the temperatures this summer.

Toti Turalba, Asian Spirit's young chairman, launched that evening their first international flight—to Palau, Micronesia. At the grand raffle in the packed Harbor Garden Tent in Philippine Plaza, Toti called two lucky winners who won plane tickets and accommodations in Koror, Palau.

Utilizing the 100-seater British Aerospace 146 jet aircraft with four powerful jet engines, Asian Spirit flies several days a week to Palau—perfect for a weekend getaway. They are currently promoting tour packages for three- or four-night stays with various resorts like Palau Pacific Resort or West Plaza by the Sea. E-mail them at tours@asianspirit.com or call 0632-8547367.

For any avid diver, Palau is the ultimate adventurer's paradise being ranked as one of the Top 5 dive destinations in the world. I am quite familiar with Palau because my husband **Dennis** and I spent our two-week honeymoon on board the Palau Aggressor. Looking back, I would not have thought that was a romantic getaway because I was so exhausted with the diving but it was quite awesome to see schools of fishes, swirling barracudas and graceful manta rays swimming on the surface.

With Asian Spirit now flying to Palau, more divers and beach-goers can explore the islands. Palau has a lake filled with sting-less jellyfish since the lake has been completely isolated from the sea for centuries. Swimming among these silicone-like creatures is very eerie at first but fun once you get your nerves settled.

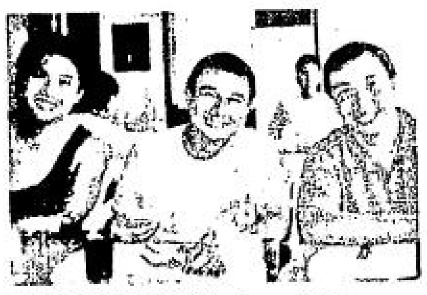
Palau also has a dolphin park donated from Japan. They have daily tours where guests can swim and interact with these very intelligent, playful beings. The site is located in a penned area between some islands so the dolphins are kept in their natural environment.

Our family has become quite familiar with Palau because we have been invited there quite a number of times by my avid scuba-diving aunt, **Mary de Leon**. We usually stay on either the Ocean Hunter I or the bigger and newer Ocean Hunter II (visit www.oceanhunter.com) where our son **Tyrone** learned to dive last year.

Top diving spot

In that Top 5 List of dive destinations in the world, one of them is right here in the Philippines. The Tubbataha Reefs, a pair of vast coral atolls sprawled in the middle of the Sulu Sea, is one of the last remaining marine wildernesses in the Philippines. It is a national park that has been proclaimed a World Heritage Site.

NAVY Seals on duty



CONGRESSIONAL divers Miles Roces, Tony Alvarez and Baham Mitra

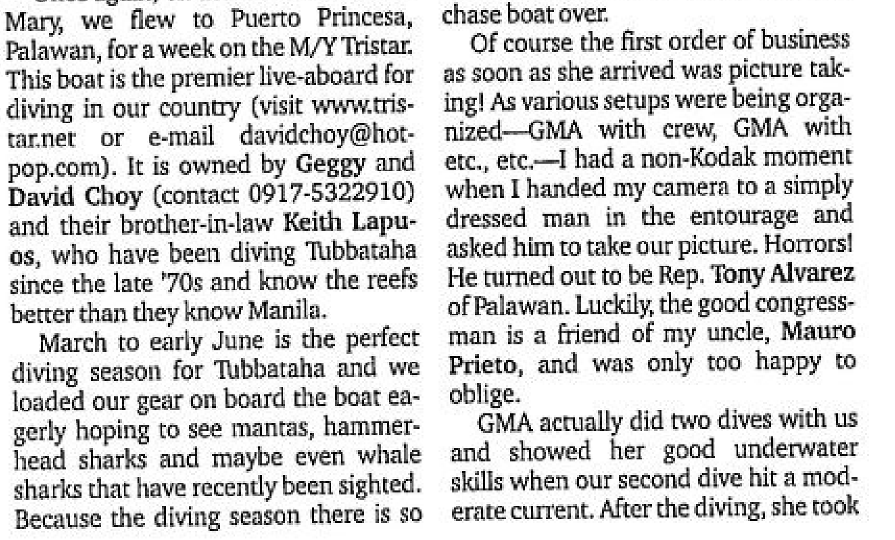
Once again, on the invitation of Tita Mary, we flew to Puerto Princesa, Palawan, for a week on the M/Y Tristar. This boat is the premier live-aboard for diving in our country (visit www.tristar.net or e-mail davidchoy@hotpop.com). It is owned by **Geggy** and **David Choy** (contact 0917-5322910) and their brother-in-law **Keith Lapuos**, who have been diving Tubbataha since the late '70s and know the reefs better than they know Manila.

March to early June is the perfect diving season for Tubbataha and we loaded our gear on board the boat eagerly hoping to see mantas, hammerhead sharks and maybe even whale sharks that have recently been sighted. Because the diving season there is so short and there are so few good live-aboards, reservations for Tubbataha often need to be made a year in advance. We were so lucky to be invited! I personally was just looking forward to being one with the undersea world once again.

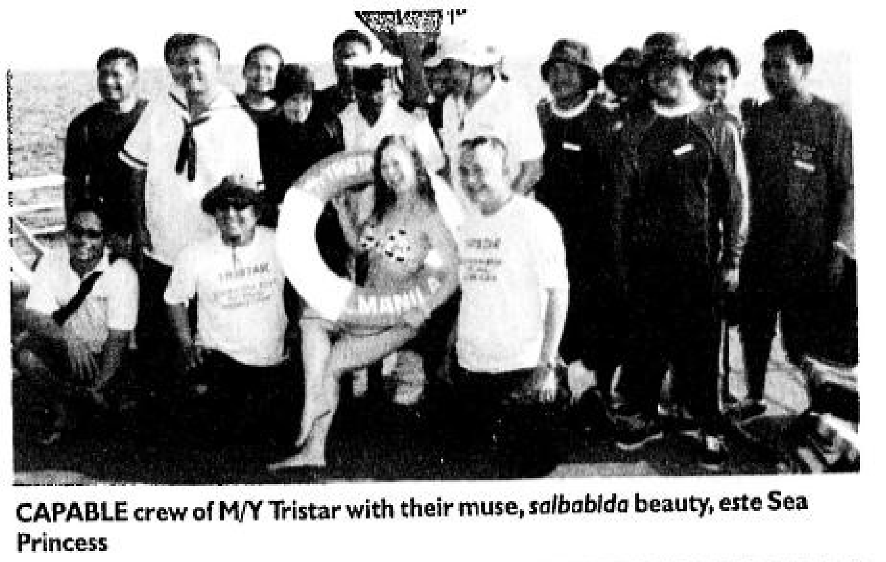
This particular trip also had a tremendous amount of activity outside the water because we had a VIP guest on board for a day. President GMA scuba dived with us! Flying in by helicopter, GMA landed on a navy boat near ours and then took a smaller chase boat over.

Of course the first order of business as soon as she arrived was picture taking! As various setups were being organized—GMA with crew, GMA with etc., etc.—I had a non-Kodak moment when I handed my camera to a simply dressed man in the entourage and asked him to take our picture. Horrors! He turned out to be Rep. **Tony Alvarez** of Palawan. Luckily, the good congressman is a friend of my uncle, **Mauro Prieto**, and was only too happy to oblige.

GMA actually did two dives with us and showed her good underwater skills when our second dive hit a moderate current. After the diving, she took



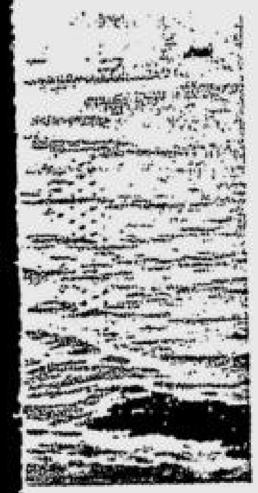
CAPABLE crew of M/Y Tristar with their muse, *salbabida* beauty, este Sea Princess



ASIAN Spirit guests visit playful dolphins in captivity.

PHILIPPINE delegation in Palau

with GMA



time to visit the Ranger Station on the reef. One wonders what the election results were among the eight men who take three-month stints patrolling the marine park.

After the GMA visit, we hit South Tubbataha and the Delsan Wreck, the best dive spot in the area. Geggy describes Delsan as "the Disneyland of Tubbataha" and, between the schools of jacks, grey reef sharks and giant barracudas on the spot, it is clear he is right. Just don't call a shark "Goofy" and try and pat it on the nose!

Scuba is a wonderful activity that every healthy family should try. There is nothing that will set your spirits soaring higher than summer temperatures than seeing your kids' eyes fill with wonder at the underwater beauty that makes each of our 7,000 islands like no other in the world.

SPECIAL guest PGMA with Tristar owner Geggy Choy, Capt. Francis Dimayacyac, David Choy and Keith Lapuos

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph.

It's *Mom's Day* at SM Supermalls

Today is red-letter day for all moms. as SM Supermalls celebrate Mother's Day nationwide. The day's highlight is the Grand Finals of the Mother and Daughter Look-Alike Contest.

The contest is open to all mother and daughter pairs who bear a close physical resemblance to each other. Fifteen (15) finalist pairs will compete in the Grand Finals today at SM City Fairview. The three (3) Grand Finalist Pairs who are selected will win cash prizes and other goodies. In addition to the contest, SM will also feature a Mommy Make-Over Fair that will give free make-over treats to all moms. And as an added treat, GMA talent Dennis Trillo and Star Struck talents Rainier Castillo and Marky Cielo will serenade all the moms at SM City Bicutan, SM Southmall and SM City Bacoor, respectively.

Bring MOM Shopping
on MAY 14, 2006
Buy her long-wished-for GIFT
Treat her to her favorite FOOD
Enjoy a movie TOGETHER
SM
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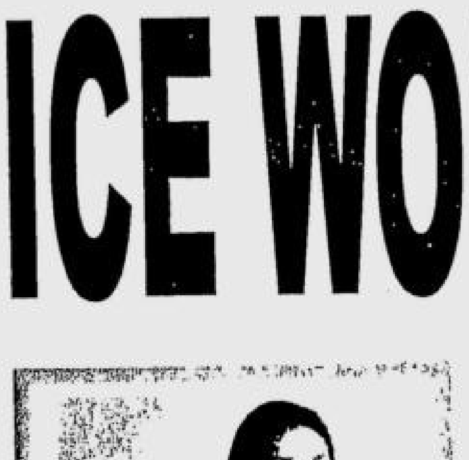
ICE WONDER SHAKES THE WORLD

In a tropical paradise devoid of ice, someone is making an impact in the world of ice-skating. The Pride of the Philippines, Katrice delos Reyes is only 12 years old but has already won more than 50 medals and is raring to win more. It's no surprise that she has been picked to be "The Ice Wonder" of the country's newest superheroes – The MILO Champions League. With her new role, plus school, training, and other tasks, where will she get her energy? We asked Katrice and her mom Grace to share some of their family's winning regimen and they're happy to oblige.



The Ice Wonder with her wonder mom, Grace

MOMMY GRACE:

In our family, snack is an important meal just like lunch, breakfast, or dinner. It rejuvenates the body so we'll have energy to accomplish homework, housework, and bond with family. For Katrice and her younger brother, I always make sure that they have iced MILO with milk with their snacks. And now that MILO is new and improved with more malt, it has become even more nutritious. ***Two glasses of MILO with milk during the day already covers 27% of Katrice's daily energy requirement.***

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5. Add ice and enjoy!

KATRICE:

Before it was Mom who'd make our MILO for us. But since we've gotten this new **MILO-Milk Shaker**, my brother and I have started mixing our MILO by ourselves. It makes preparing MILO a lot easier and more fun. It also looks real cool (and I'm not just saying this because I'm part of the designs Ü)! Other MILO-Milk Shakers have the pictures of the other **MILO Champions League** members in dynamic poses. The MILO Champions League is composed of **Japoy** "The Flying Prince of Kick" **Lizardo**, **Marielle** "The Teen Mermaid" **Infantado, Tim** "Lightning Feet" **Polero, Micco** "M.V.P. (Most Valuable Promise)" **Sollano, Nica** "The Freshest Rhythm" **Calapatan**, and your one and only **Katrice**, "The Ice Wonder" **Delos Reyes**.

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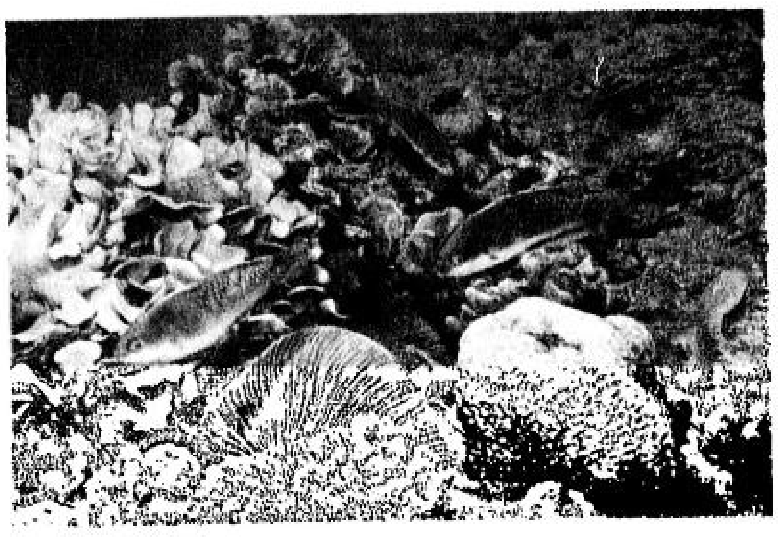

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Anvaya Cove has a 3.5-km coastline, two private coves and a peak elevation of 130 meters above sea level. It offers a spectacular view of the Silanguin and Bataan mountain ranges and the calm waters of Subic Bay.

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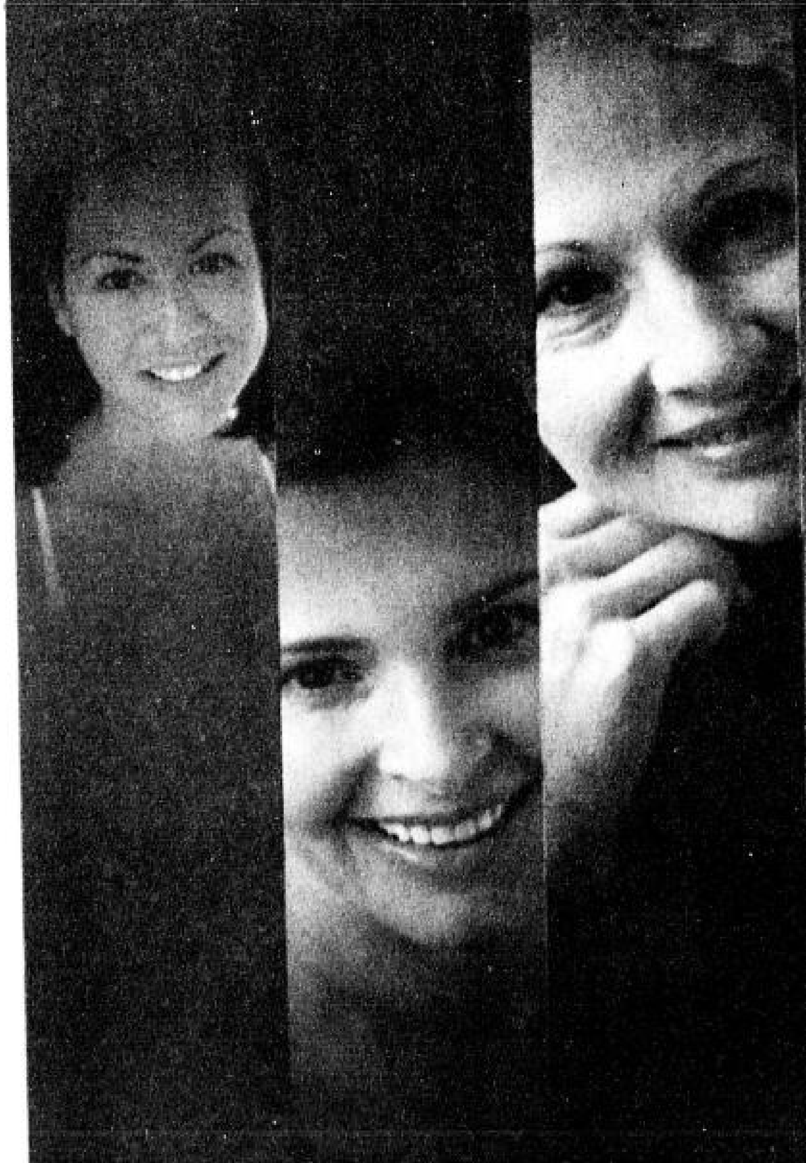

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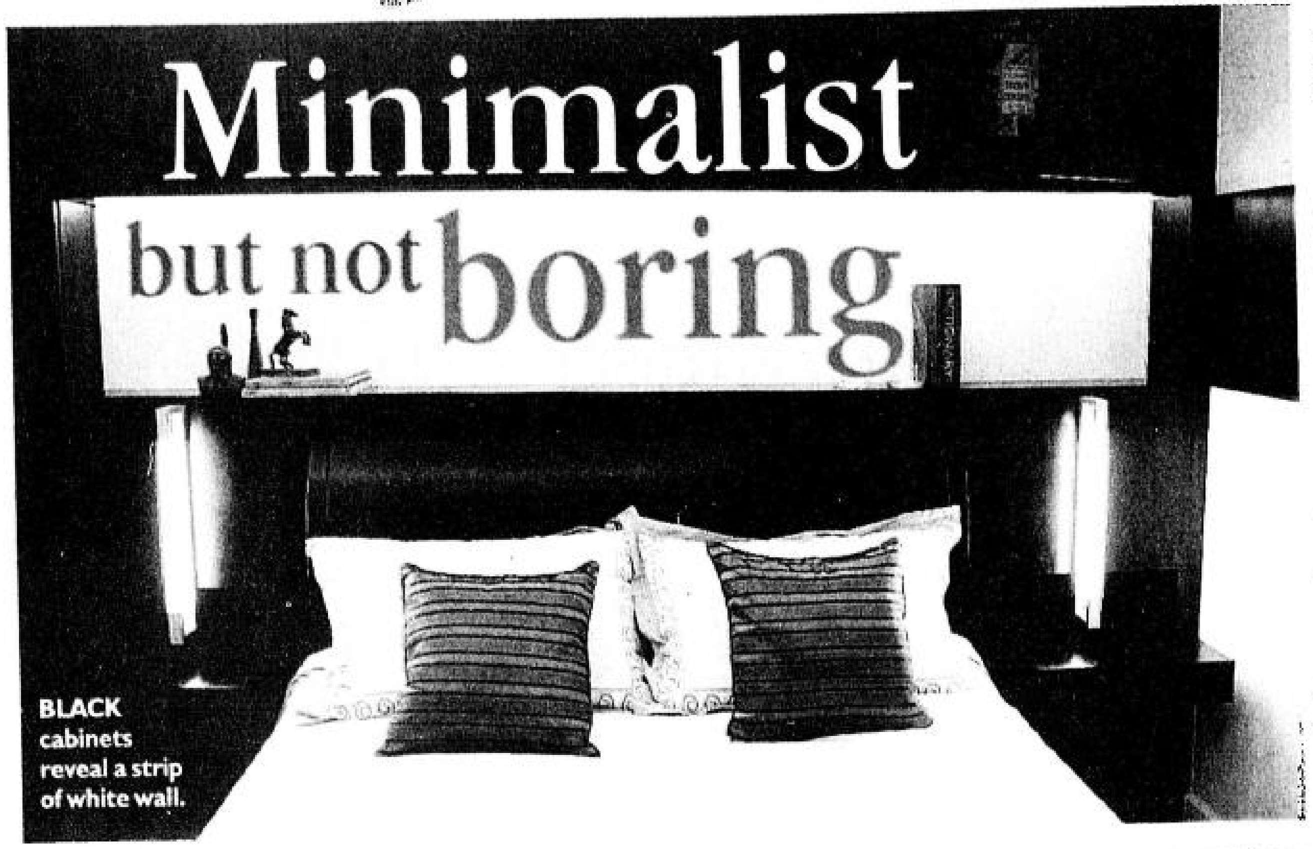
Minimalist but not boring



BLACK cabinets reveal a strip of white wall.

Text by Alex Y. Vergara
Photos by Chito Vecina

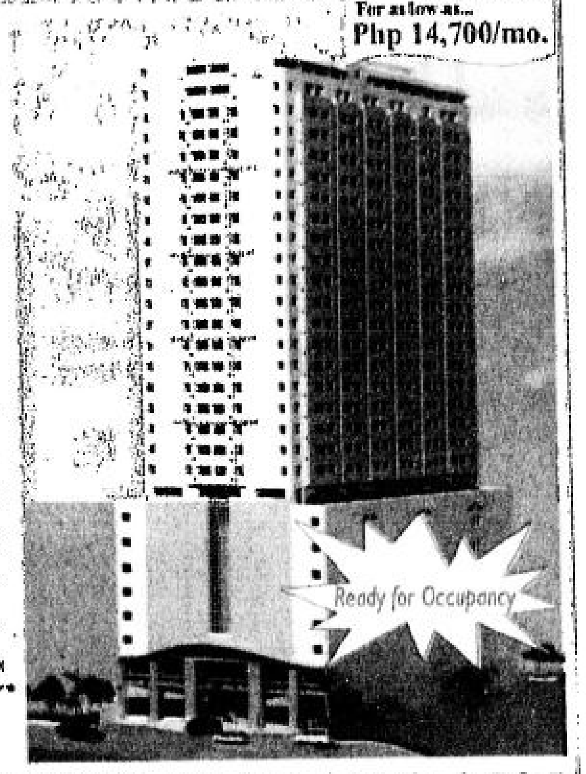
A trio of female interior designers debunks certain myths associated with stripped-down design and living

AS FAR AS INTERIOR designers Chelle Laborte, Monica Lagman and Tantan Pambid are concerned, minimalism will never die. In fact, the look has never totally left the scene and will continue to thrive as more and more Filipinos opt for condo living.

But before you go for minimalist interiors, says the trio, you should disabuse yourself of certain myths, such as: minimalism can leave your home looking cold and boring; it's the best way to extend a limited budget; and only men go for it.

The trio effectively debunked such misconceptions with their latest project: a 125-sq m, two-bedroom, black-and-white affair at the Shang Grand Tower (tel. 9095000 to 9095003) in Makati. The unit's female owner, who declined to be interviewed, plans to rent out her latest acquisition.

MINIMALIST/ G2



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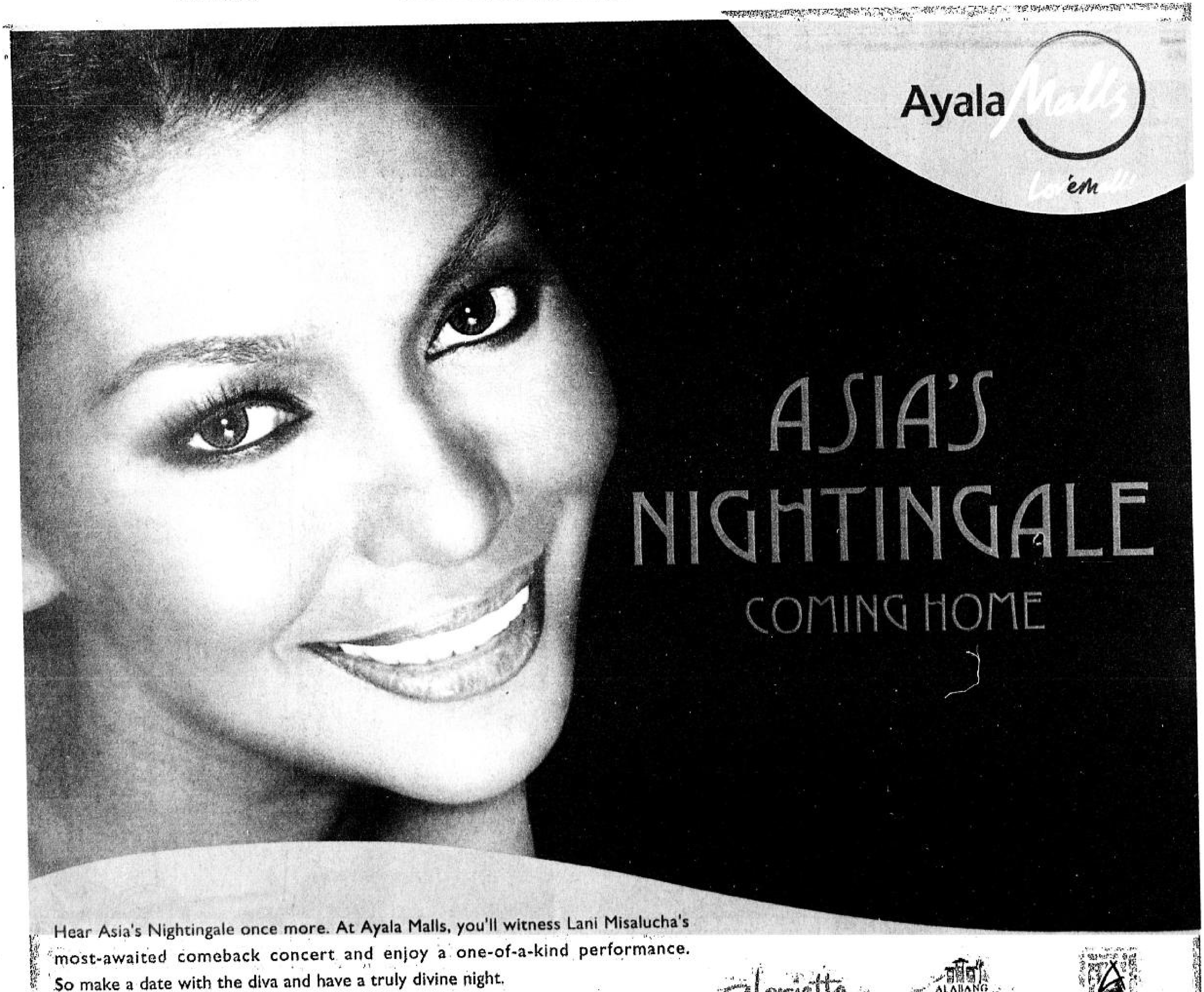

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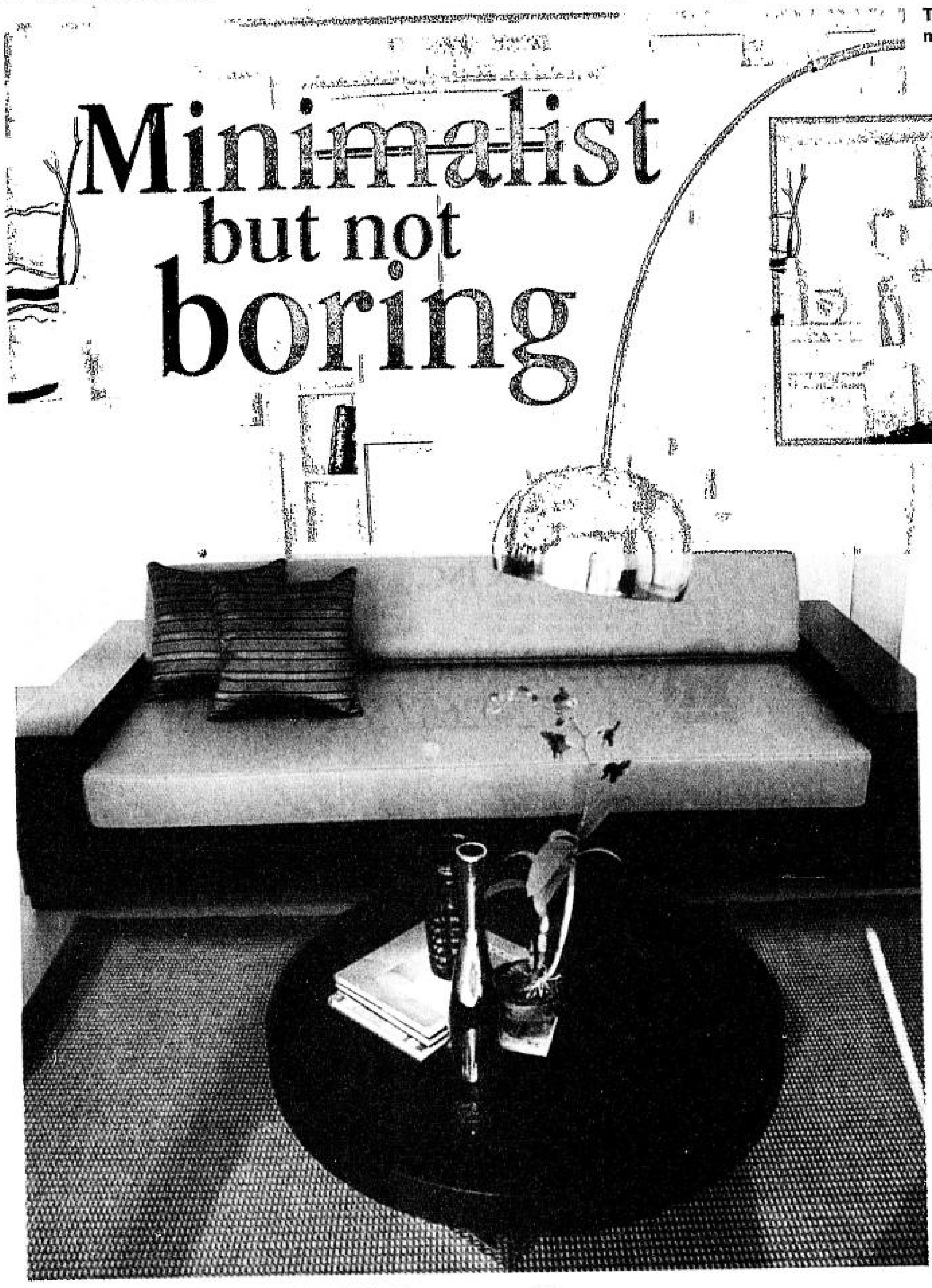
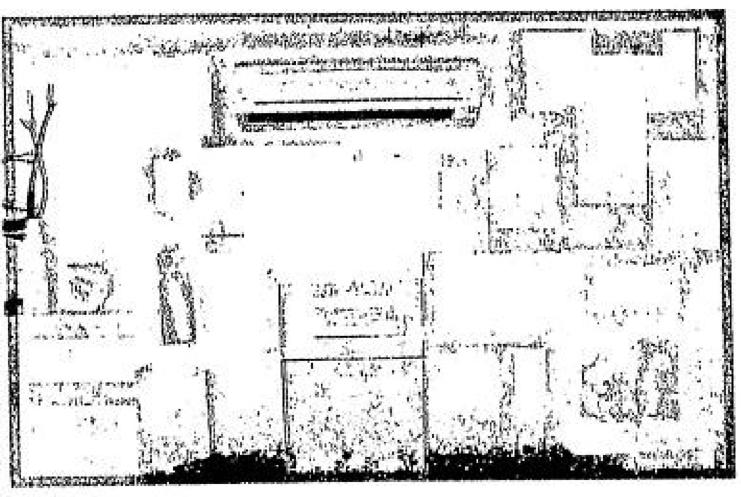
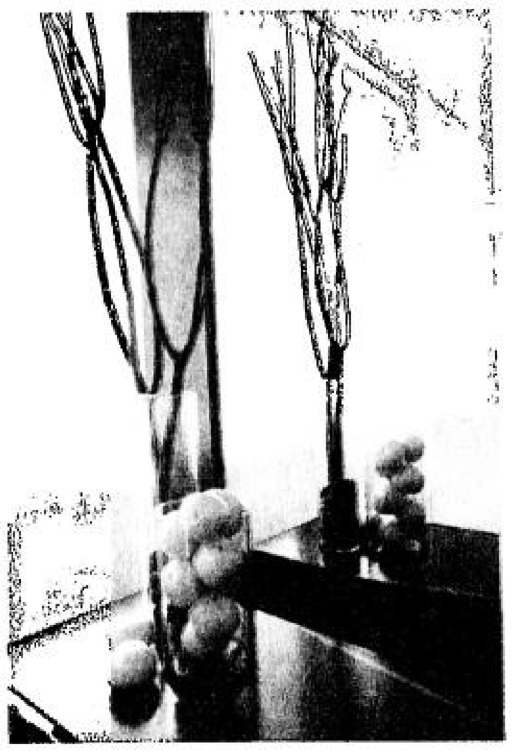
Minimalist but not boring



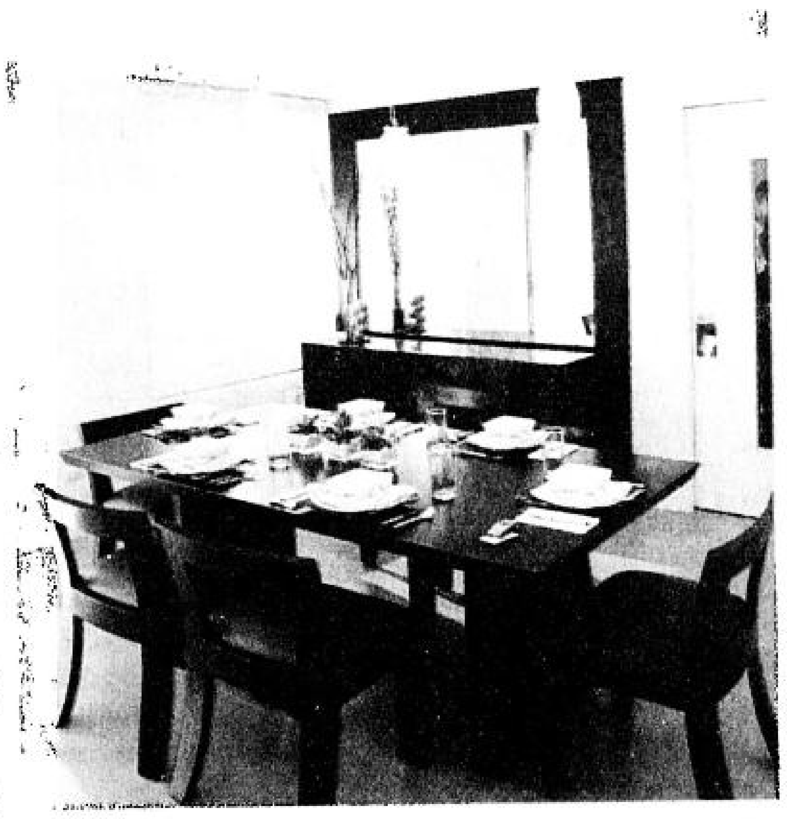
THREE-SITTER sofa in camel matches color of the floor.



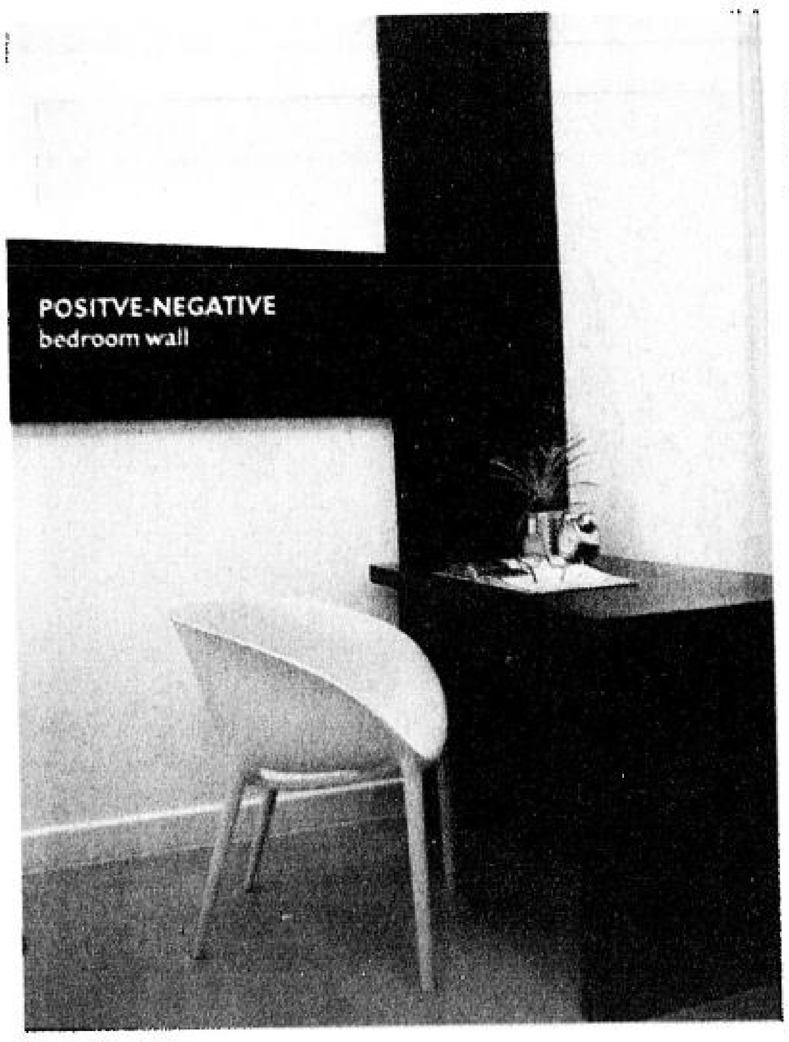
WHITE niches seem to jut out like the computer game "Tetris."



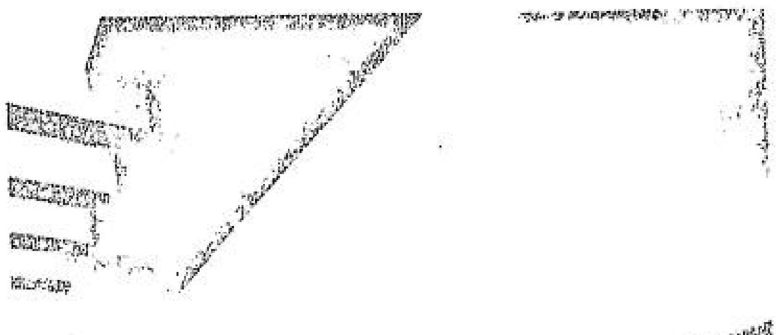
A TOUCH of orange in a black-and-white setup



DINING room comes with a series of dangling lights, while the rest of the house is illuminated by cove lighting.



POSITVE-NEGATIVE bedroom wall



TEXTURES and contrasts are limited to the bedroom's ceiling, walls and certain linen pieces.

Regarding the second myth, says Lagman, nothing can be further from the truth. She once encountered a newly married couple who insisted on minimalist interiors for their brand new love nest. When she asked them why, she was finally able to confirm her suspicion.

"Since they had a small budget," she says, "the wife thought it would be cheaper to go minimalist because you only needed to buy a few things. That's a very wrong notion of minimalism."

Imperfections

For one, minimalism allows no room for imperfections. Thus, finishing work is costlier compared to, say, a rustic, Mediterranean-inspired home or one teeming with all sorts of Orientalia.

True, it does entail restraint, but not on one's budget. Since they're supposed to be spare and flawless, minimalist furniture and accent pieces are more expensive next to their more conventional counterparts. (The three decline to reveal their project's total price tag.)

"When you go minimalist, it has to be your style," says Laborte. "While most styles welcome imperfections, it's never the case with minimalism. Since even the most minute imperfection can mar the look, everything has to be almost perfect."

Flawless doesn't have to be stark or, worse, boring. In their latest work, for instance, the three women were able to inject a number of focal points that underscore a play on textures and contrasts.

In lieu of an all-white affair (which is typical in many minimalist homes), they opted for a black-and-white color scheme plus a few neutral furniture pieces in brown and camel. Contrast was thus achieved on the two bedrooms' "positive-negative" walls and cabinets.

"Apart from going monochromatic," says Pambid, who did a black-and-white abstract painting on the living room, "you can also use one strong color as an accent."

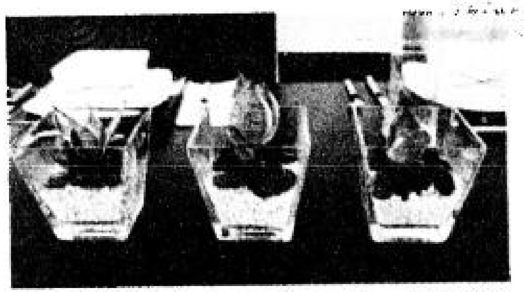
Neutral colors

They originally got the green light to do the unit in black and white, but as soon as the client saw their rendition, she told them to throw neutral colors into the mix in the form of brown and camel furniture pieces. Thus, says Laborte, the look now falls under the realm of modern minimalism.

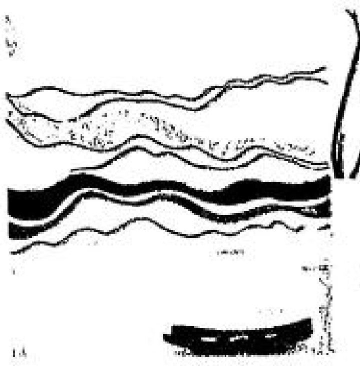
Their decision to retain the unit's light-brown wood laminate floor proved to be a wise one. Furniture pieces (in camel) consisting of a three-sitter and an Ottoman from Padua achieved a floating effect since they match the floor's color.

An accent piece in the form of a leather rocking chair from Roomscape echoes the wood's wenge finish. A dark-brown buffet table that doubles as a china cabinet comes with modern carvings in the form of swirls.

The trio was able to achieve texture via a series of white, "thatched-latch" niches Laborte designed to go with the living room. The functional compartments' irregular, jutting-out quality is reminiscent of the once-popular computer game "Tetris."



SHORT, spiky plants reinforce the minimalist setup.



ABSTRACT painting by one of the unit's interior designers

ROCKING chair of wood and leather accents this corner of the living room.

"You can also play with heights and lines to keep your home from looking cold," says Laborte. "You can be playful and be minimalist at the same time."

Elaborate carvings and needless clutter have no place in a minimalist home.

"Strictly speaking," says Pambid, "minimalist interiors make use of metal sculptures. A few wood pieces are acceptable as long as they're not too ornate."

Such rules may be a bit hard for the typical homeowner to follow. Apart from their legendary fear of open spaces, Filipinos are also notorious hoarders. Fortunately, exposure to minimalist interiors here and abroad is starting to change such thinking.

Concealed lighting

Lighting also plays a key role in achieving a minimalist ambiance. In lieu of heavy chandeliers, the trio resorted to cove or concealed lighting through a series of drop ceilings. A concession was made via a series of dangling, no-frills lights in the dining area.

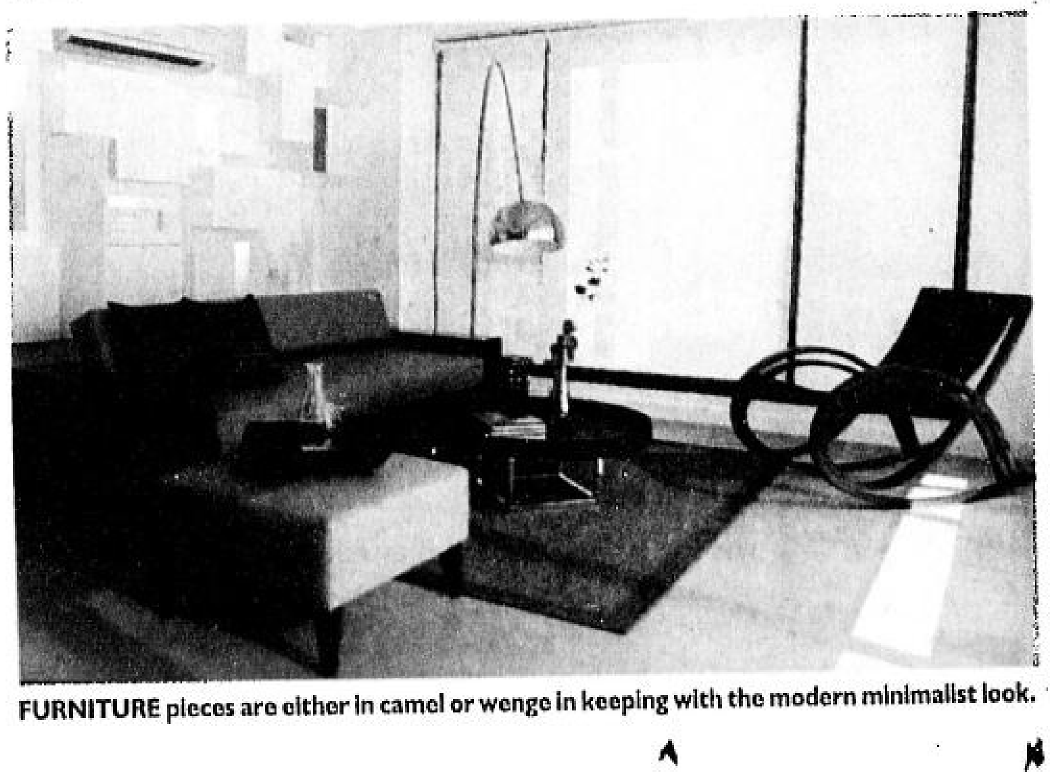
"We veered from the norm to achieve some verticality," says Lagman. "But the rest of the house is illuminated with lights peeking from under the coves."

Finally, the fact that three women were involved in the project for another woman proves that minimalism no longer appeals exclusively to men.

"Personally, I'm partial to minimalism because I'm so exposed to colors as part of my profession," says Laborte. "White is like a plain canvass you can play around with."

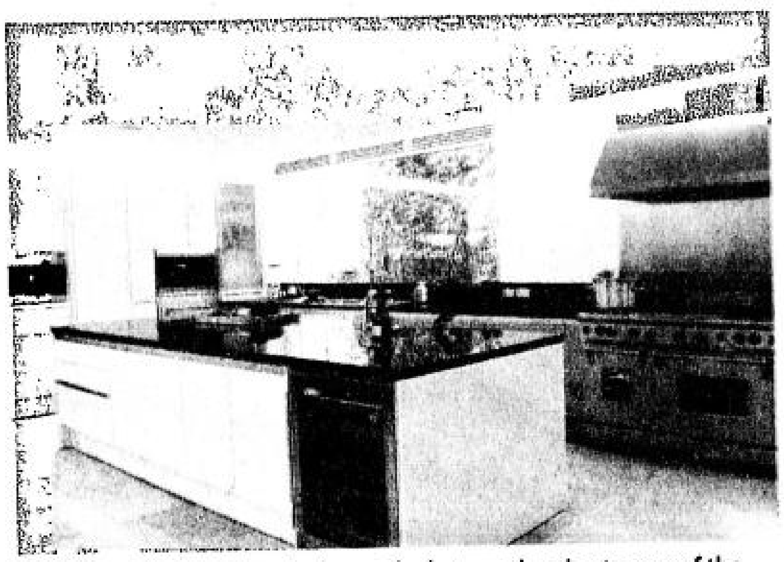
Like their client, Laborte wants to give her eyes a rest as soon as she arrives home. After being subjected to all that din and riot of images in the workplace, we could all use some absence of color and clutter for a change.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph



FURNITURE pieces are either in camel or wenge in keeping with the modern minimalist look.

Filipino kitchen design one of the world's best



THE WINNING kitchen design at the international category of the Sub-Zero and Wolf Kitchen Design contest. Note the clean lines, granite countertops, glass elements, beautiful garden views and fully integrated Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances.

THE KITCHEN DESIGN OF FILipino Cara Marie Salangsang-Marcelo won in the International Category of this year's Sub-Zero and Wolf Kitchen Design Contest.

It was one of some 1,000 entries from professional kitchen designers all over the world.

A design by Italian Enrico Longoni also won in the International Category.

Marcelo is manager of the kitchen division of Focus Global, provider of international products and services in the country. The design will be included in the book "Great American Kitchens."

The Sub-Zero and Wolf Kitchen Design Contest, held every two years, recognizes kitchen and interior designers, architects and builders for advancing outstanding kitchen design. It was opened for the first time to Asians this year.

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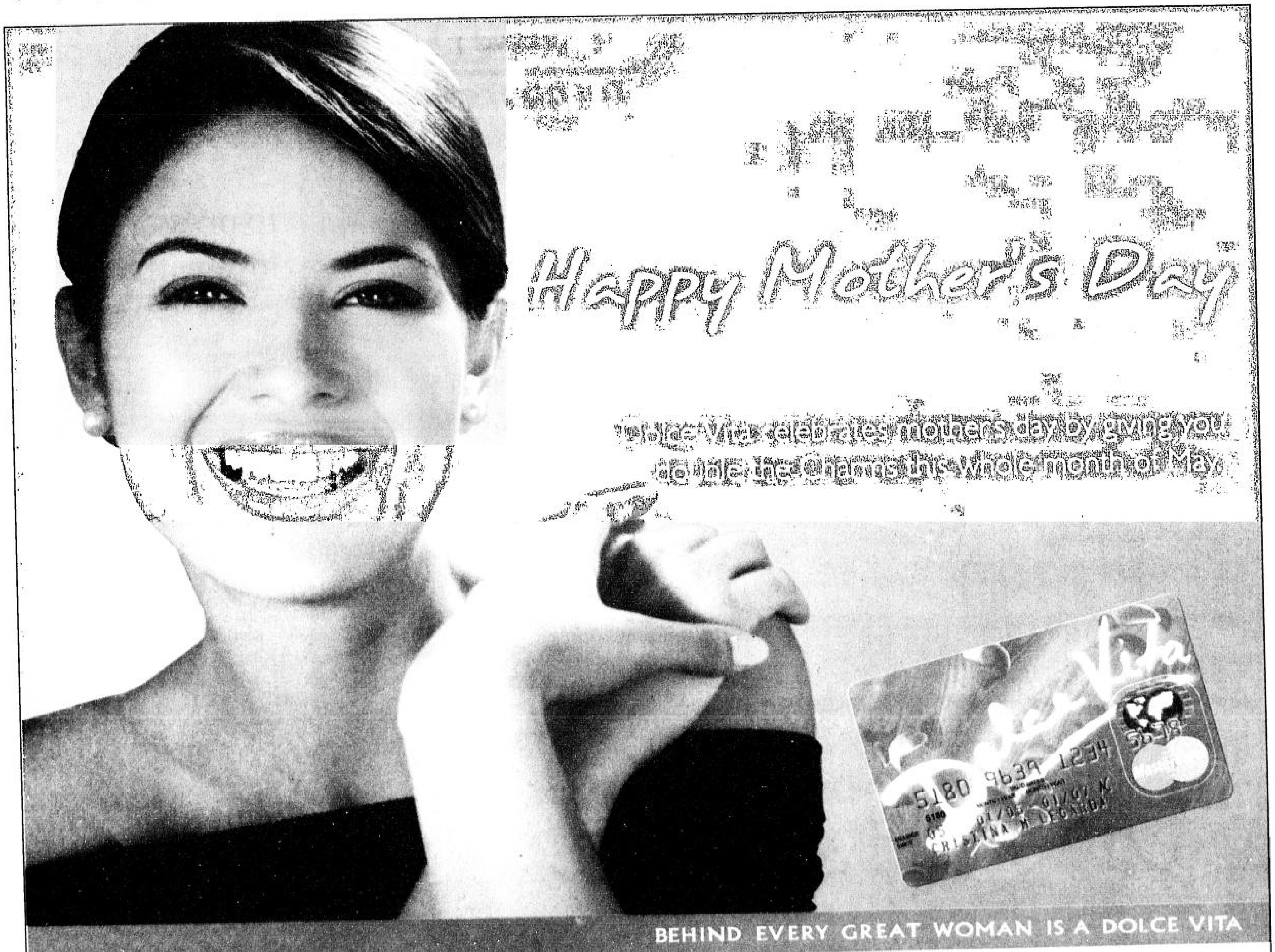
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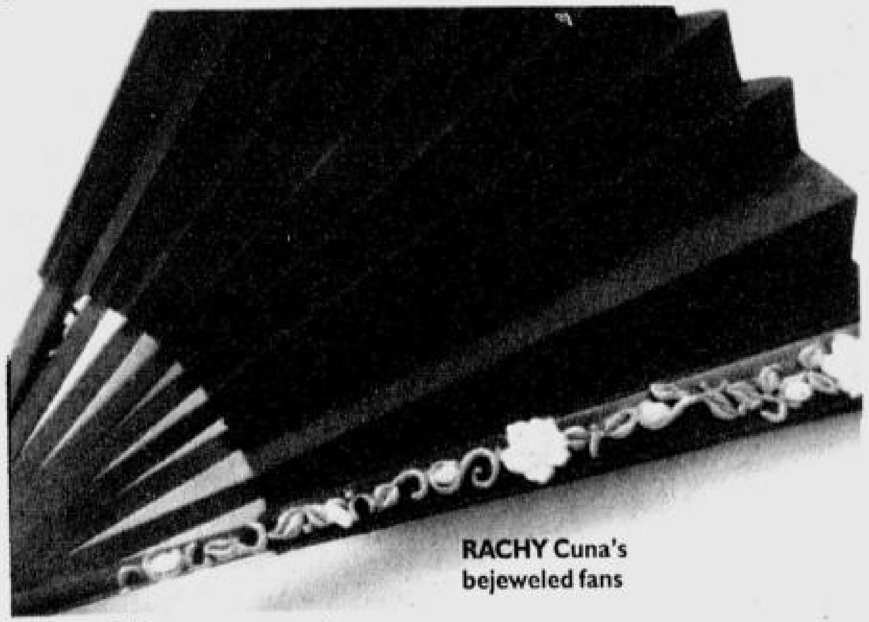
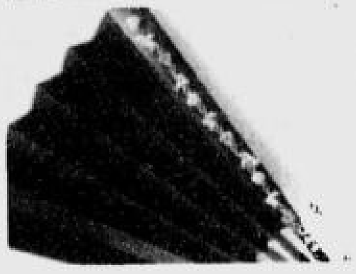


RACHY Cuna's bejeweled fans



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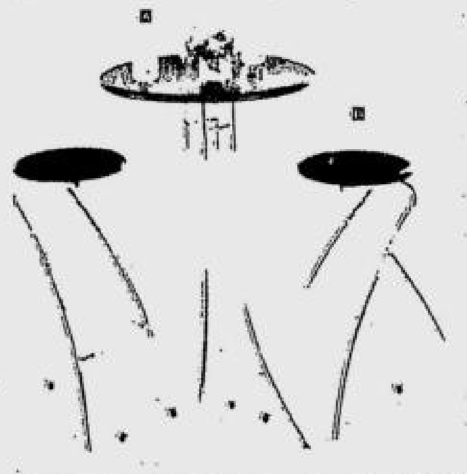

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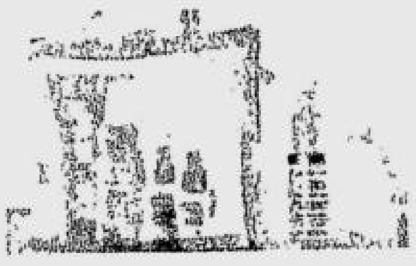
Personalize it with your own thoughts and words. Thank her for making you breakfast every day, for listening to you rant or rave about your boyfriend, for waking you up every morning and bringing you to school, or for just knowing when you need a hug or a shoulder to cry on.

Being a mom is a lifelong commitment borne out of unconditional love. No matter how tired or frustrated she is, she cannot stop or quit being a mom. She does not expect anything in return. So, do not stop at Mother's Day or wait until the next one to make her feel special. She deserves to feel loved and appreciated every single day.

Filstar Distributors Corp. is the exclusive licensee of Hallmark Cards in the Philippines. Available at National Book Store and other fine retail outlets nationwide.



Rejuvenate Mom

MARY KAY (PHILS.) INC., DIRECT SELLER of skin care and color cosmetics, launches a new addition to the TimeWise skin care line, the new TimeWise Firming Eye Cream.

A gift mom will probably appreciate, the TimeWise skin care collection is an age-fighting line that has been clinically proven to deliver dramatic results. The products accelerate the skin's renewal process, help prevent environmental damage, nourish and restore the skin with the help of the TimeWise anti-aging complex and age-fighting ingredients.

The TimeWise Firming Eye Cream has an advanced formula that firms and brightens tired eyes while moisturizing. It helps minimize fines lines and wrinkles. Also available is the TimeWise Miracle Set. Call 8596211 or visit www.marykay.com.ph

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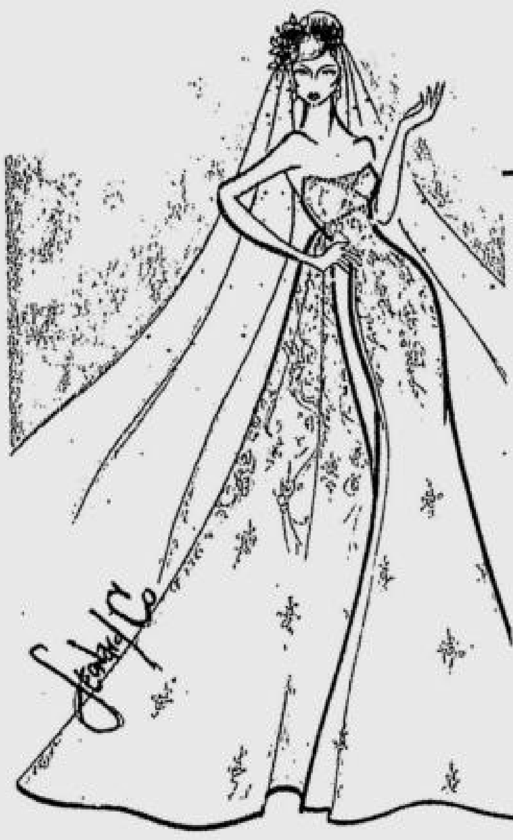

Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

TAN-TAN GO

Michael Yang Tan, son of **Jesus** and **Lydia Tan**, will marry today **Mary Ann Tan Go**, daughter of **Juanita Tan Go**, at Santuario de San Jose.

Reception will be held at Edsa Shangri-La Hotel. The bride's gown was designed by **Leonard Co.**

GREGORIO-BASILIO

Roderick Gregorio, son of **Rodolfo** and **Medy Gregorio**, will wed **Monette Basilio** on May 17, 3 p.m., at St. Augustine Parish Church, Baliwag, Bulacan. Reception will be held at the multipurpose hall of St. Augustine Church.

TAN-DY

Bryan T. Tan, son of **Tan Ban Yu** and **Ederlina Tan**, will wed **Anne Zhandra U. Dy**, daughter of **Alfredo** and **Rosa Dy**, today at the Sacred Heart Church, Tacloban City. Reception will follow at Leyte Progressive Gymnasium, Sabang District, Tacloban City. The bride's gown was designed by **Leonardo Igloria** of Cebu City.

FREE camphone print!*

Print five camphone pictures through the Kodak Picture Kiosk
and enjoy another print FREE! Promo runs from May 1 to June 15, 2006.

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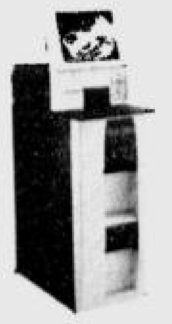

New Bontoc bishop to be installed

THE NEW APOSTOLIC NUNCIO, MOST Rev. Fernando Filoni, will install Msgr. Rodolfo Fontiveros Beltran as new bishop of Bontoc-Lagawe on May 16, 4 p.m., at the St. Peter's Metropolitan Cathedral in Tuguegarao, Cagayan.

Participating in the ceremonies are Tuguegarao Archbishop Diosdado Talamayan and Nueva Vizcaya Bishop Ramon Villena.

At 8:30 a.m. the next day, the new bishop will celebrate his Thanksgiving Mass at St. Peter Thelmo Parish in Aparri. He will be installed at the Sta. Rita de Casia Cathedral in Bontoc, on May 29, 9 a.m.

FR. JAMES Reuter with Sr. Sarah Manapol, Carmen Carceller-Montecon and Sr. Maribel Carceller

Cagayanon

Msgr. Rudy Beltran, a native of Gattaran, Cagayan, and the son of Primitivo and Damasa Beltran, studied at the San Jacinto Seminary in Tuguegarao. He finished his AB Philosophy at the Immaculate Conception Major Seminary in Vigan, Ilocos Sur.

Msgr. Rudy, as he is called, finished Theology at the University of Santo Tomas Central Seminary where he also took up his licentiate in Theology and Master of Arts.

A devotee of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Msgr. Rudy was ordained on March 25, 1976, feast of the Annunciation, by the Most Rev. Teodulfo Domingo, then archbishop of Tuguegarao.

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

Fr. Reuter is 90

Fr. James Reuter, S.J., will celebrate his 90th birthday on May 21 with a special Mass at 4 p.m. in St. Paul's College, Quezon City.

His "boys," the Ateneo Alumni Glee Club headed by Luis "Totie" Olivarez, formed the 2BRC Foundation that would publish the book on Fr. Reuter.

The book includes 12 of the plays Fr. Reuter wrote, produced and directed; a biographical sketch by Sister Sarah Manapol, SPC; a revealing exchange of letters between Fr. Reuter and his family; and photos never published before.

The book is aptly called "Legacy: Selected Works and Writings by Fr. James B. Reuter." It will be launched after the Mass on May 21.

The book launching was announced at a lunch hosted in April at the Manila Polo Club by Letty Gorman for Lulu Tesoro-Castañeda's birthday. In the program emceed by Johnny Litton, June Keithley talked about Fr. Reuter who directed her in plays, and Celeste Legaspi sang.

Lorna Llanes, a fan of Fr. Reuter, took photos, especially of the glee club singing love songs with the priest himself conducting.

To inquire about the book, call 5644518 (Xavier House).

63 years in RP

I saw Fr. Reuter up close when I attended the Catholic Authors Awards 2001 ceremonies at the Villa San Miguel. My friend Dulce Festin-Baybay was an awardee. Fr. Reuter, asked to talk about the posthumous awardee, Fr. Horacio de la Costa, SJ, recited a poem by Fr. de la Costa from memory. Fr. Reuter's remembering the long poem so well amazed us all.

Fr. Reuter came to the Philippines as a young priest in 1938 and has spent 63 years of his life here, declaring he would work, die and be buried here. He taught at the Ateneo de Manila, Ateneo de Naga and St. Paul Colleges.

He has been in and out of the hospital and his "boys" visit him often, eating and singing with him. The good priest becomes alive and strong during these times.

Happy birthday, Father! May your tribe increase.

New book

"Sacred Feminine" is the title of the book by Maria Andrea Santos-Mendigo, a Marian devotee. Published by Word Communicators Apostolate, the book is a cathechesis on our Blessed Mother Mary and the Holy Eucharist.

The author traces the divine plan to share the bounty of God outside of the Blessed Trinity. The Second Person, God's Word, would assume human nature. On Him would be patterned the rest of humanity. He would come into the world through a mother, a woman chosen before time began—Mary.

She embodied the Sacred Feminine because in her sinless and virginal womb the Word would take flesh. She was also to become mother of us all, queen of heaven and earth.

The book is available at P250 a copy at Totus Bookstore in Greenhills, the outlets of Jesuit Communications, the Sto. Domingo Religious Center, the Divine Mercy Shrine in Mandaluyong and some parish offices/bookstores such as Christ the King-Greenmeadows, Jesus the Divine Healer Parish-Tahanan Village and Presentation of the Child Jesus-BF Parañaque.

Paintings

To celebrate the month of May, considered the month of Virgin Mary, the Manila Archdiocesan Commission for the Cultural Heritage of the Church (MACC), with the Tuesday Group of Artists, is holding an exhibit of Contemporary Filipino Marian Expressions at the Manila Archdiocesan Museum, 3/F, Arzobispado Bldg., Intramuros, Manila.

Featured are works by members of the Tuesday Group, an informal association of Filipino artists, like Angel Cacnio, Elmer Gernale, Al Perez, Dr. Ton Raymundo, Jun Martinez, Menchu Arandilla, Nards Miranda, Entes Magpusao, Loreto Racuya, Vic Bachoco, Rona Chua, Bing Siochi, Nik Masangkay, Ernie Patricio and Jorge Ng.

MSGR. Rodolfo Fontiveros Beltran

Conference

Some 300 people are expected at the Grafted-in International Networking Conference May 17-21 at the Caliraya Recreation Center, Barangay Lewin, Lumban, Laguna. Rev. Bishop Dr. Arnold Cabalquinto, founding chair of the Christ Our Banner Worldwide Missions Church, is overseeing the preparations. "Grafted-in" refers to Roman 11. For details, call 9262754.

Fiesta

The Parish of Our Lady of Peñafrancia de Manila celebrates its 55th fiesta anniversary with a holy Mass at 9 a.m. today to be officiated by Gaudencio Cardinal Rosales. A procession will be held at 3:30 p.m..

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20 years with the Good Shepherd

THE PASTURE IS DOUBLY LUSH and flourishing this time of the year in Good Shepherd Parish (GSP) of Las Piñas.

Not only does the parish, just like several other parishes, ride high into the season's fiesta fever, it also has a very special reason to celebrate. This year, the parish reaches 20 years of active pastoral work in a vast and populated area of Las Piñas composed of subdivisions with seven chapels, aside from the church itself.

It doesn't seem too long ago when the idea of building a new church in Las Piñas was being considered. Fr. John McCormack and Fr. Patrick Kelly of the Society of African Missions were the first priests from their society to be sent to the Philippines in September 1986. Their arrival was the result of earlier talks between SMA Superior General Fr. Patrick Harrington and the late Cardinal Jaime Sin about the need for more priests in the Philippines. Las Piñas, with its suburban setting, was chosen as most appropriate area for the mission.

When the groundwork was being laid for the building of a church community in 1986, many of the parishioners were already actively involved in nearby parishes' ministries and had the basic background in community work. As they pledged affiliation to the new parish, these people found themselves absorbed in various church undertakings.

Fundraising projects for the church building went simultaneously with "shepherding the growing flock" as church-related ministries were put up and began holding their own meetings, practices, Bible study and prayer groups regularly.

However, with such a highly populated parish, there were constant calls for pastoral care, not to mention the liturgical services and organization meetings taking place weekly.

Despite some occasional setbacks, Good Shepherd Parish is well on its way to be one of the strongest church communities this part of Las Piñas. Marriage Encounters and Couples for Christ, built around the family, are now well-established. Through the Social Development and Health Care Office, there are regular outreach activities to the poor and disadvantaged.

The various activities of the Parish Youth Council, on the other hand, give proof of dynamism and guided formation of the youth. Even the older parishioners, who had been serving and dedicating their time to ministering to the flock when the church was being built, continue to do so, although less strenuously this time.

At present, the Parish has hundreds of lectors, choir members, Lay Eucharistic ministers, altar servers, girls' club members, mother butlers, collectors, social workers, prayer groups. These same people have been mobilized to actively participate in this year's grand and colorful fiesta celebration.

At the helm of this year's fiesta jubilee activities is parish priest Fr. Gus O'Driscoll of the Society of African Missions, assisted by Fr. John Flynn, SMA, with Filipino priest Fr. Alan Canoneo, SMA. Highlights of the 20th anniversary include a concert titled "Dalawang Dekada," a singing contest, a photo exhibit showcasing highlights of the past 20 years, a mini-fair called "Karakol" and the dance contest "Sayawan sa Pastulan."

Indeed, it would be fitting to say that, at 20, the "cup has runneth over" at Good Shepherd Parish.

'Tinalak' weave becomes 'modern indigenous'

THE *TINALAK* CLOTH IS ONE OF the T'boli tribe's traditional properties. It is exchanged during marriages and used as covering during births. Now, this distinct cloth is being shared outside the tribe and has become the indigenous communities' livelihood through a special program by the Center for International Trade Expositions and Missions (Citem).

Many businesses nowadays tap the exclusive services of T'boli women of Lake Sebu in South Cotobato for *tinalak*-weaving.

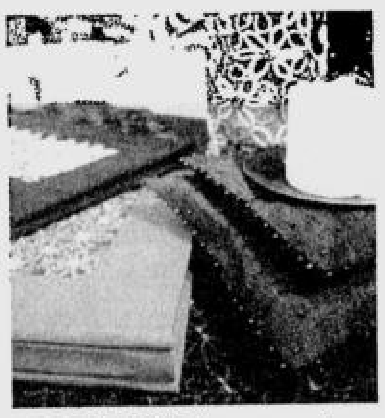
The women's cooperative, T'boli Trade and Crafts, and the Tagum Agricultural Development Co. Inc. (Tadeco), are now part of Manila F.A.M.E., the Citem crafts trade exhibit.

In the April edition of the Manila F.A.M.E., *tinalak* caught the attention of both local and foreign buyers. This intricate cloth that usually takes months to accomplish were beautifully rendered as sofa, center table, footstool, throw pillows, votive and vase covers by Tadeco.

Simple lines, clean details and the character of materials used in Tadeco's living room collection further inspire the emerging trend of modern indigenous (modi) living.

A boxy sofa became even more comforting with the right softness of its off-white cushion, paired with cuddly throw pillows accentuated with wood beads in ethnic patterns designed by Cesar Gaupo.

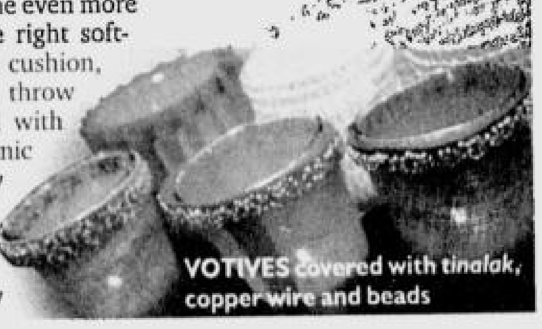
There were deep reddish-brown, black and silvery gray throw pillows accentuated with coco and glass beads in modern yet simple patterns. Buyers were also awed by footstools shaped like bongo drums—all of *tinalak*.



ABACA-BASED home accents

Abaca-based home accents also charmed Manila F.A.M.E. visitors. *Tinalak* that was carefully stripped then twisted, bound and laced with copper wire, was used as special vase holder or design for photo albums.

Sinamay was dyed with various colors then pleated and beaded as cover for tea light candleholders. Candlesticks made of deep-brown abaca raw fiber with copper wire also made a statement during the fair.



VOTIVES covered with *tinalak*, copper wire and beads

FREESTYLE Ike on a jewelry box recycled tetrapack cartons

Ikebana workshop

LEARN THE VARIOUS TECHNIQUES OF arranging and decorating flowers for weddings and other special occasions in a seminar-workshop by Ikebana professor Serapion S. Metilla, May 24-28, 1-6 p.m., at Metts Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Manila Seedling Bank corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon City.

The day-to-day activities are:

Day 1—Basic principles of Ikebana with hands-on on Shoka and Moribana

Day 2—Western styles with hands-on on all-around or one-sided and L-shape

Day 3—Western styles and flower shop operation with hands-on on crescent shape and Hogarth line

Day 4—Freestyles, buffet centerpieces and garland-making with hands-on on creative styles

Day 5—All about wedding ensembles with hands-on on corsage and bridal bouquet

All materials will be provided including pruning scissors, flower vases, flowers, foliage, floral foams, wires, tapes and ribbons, among others. Snacks, handouts and certificates will also be provided. Senior citizens and those who register early (at least seven days before the seminar) get a 10-percent discount. Call 9394593/4352479 or 0917-8321352.

A chair is not just a chair

IF YOU PLAN TO START THE YEAR BY changing the chairs or sofas at home, here are some factors to consider when choosing the right chair.

Before you shop, think about how you will be using the chair. Different chairs may be better suited for different types of tasks. For example:

Recliners. For meetings or talking on the telephone, a chair with a reclining back and armrest may be most comfortable.

Upright. For tasks requiring a more upright posture, such as typing or computer use, a chair that provides firm lower and upper back support is important.

Forward tilt. For writing and drafting, you may want a chair in which the seat tilts slightly forward.

Adjustable. For performing a wide variety of duties, you may need a chair that's adjustable. Adjustable chairs allow you to vary your position as you switch tasks. Adjustability encourages movement that promotes circulation and reduces fatigue and sore muscles. An adjustable chair is also critical if you will be sharing it with someone of a different height or build.

But the most important thing you have to do before buying a chair is to try them before buying. Don't buy chairs out of catalogues. What a chair looks like on paper will tell you nothing about how it feels after a few hours of sitting. Try out a few different chairs for at least a few hours, if not a few days. Comfort counts.

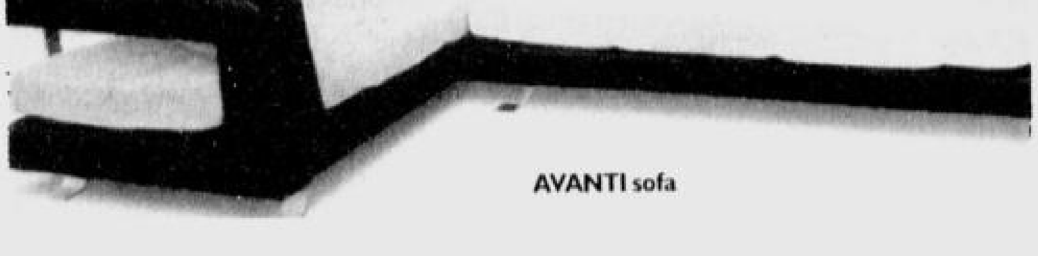
CHANTEL chair

At Décor Contemporary Furniture, you will find the chair to suit your needs. The company is the leader in contemporary furnishings and lighting in the Philippines and home to the finest imported furniture.

Perfect for conservative homes are classic designs that are Décor's bestsellers—the black Wassily or Chantel chair; the Chaise lounge, which is perfect for couples who just want to laze the time away; and the Barcelona chair.

Those who are more adventurous can try the novel seats like the Sinus, Bibendum and Ox chairs, all of which feature innovative and original designs.

Décor Contemporary Furniture has four branches located at 14 Araneta Ave., QC (tel. 7160655); 3/F, Glorietta 4, Makati (7280592); 4/F (Lite Source) SM Megamall B (6385745); and Ortigas Home Depot (6384763).



AVANTI sofa

Stainless steel–durable and reliable

SUNNEX OFFERS PREMIUM quality stainless steel cooking products that harness the heat conducting properties of aluminum, sandwiched between layers of stainless steel.

The cookware has durability and reliability while providing ease and convenience during cooking.

Sunnex cutlery and chafing dishes, similarly made of stainless steel to provide years of service at home or in the food business, are also available.

With an assortment of designs and models, Sunnex products are suitable for any occasion.

All Sunnex products are easy to maintain and stay in top quality because they are made of stainless steel.

Sunnex is available in major department stores nationwide.

Milestones

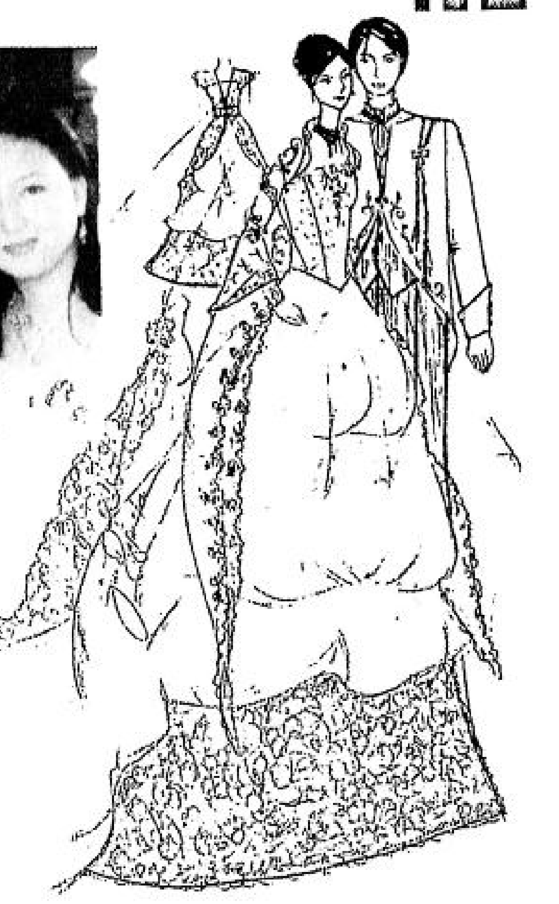
LONG-LUNA

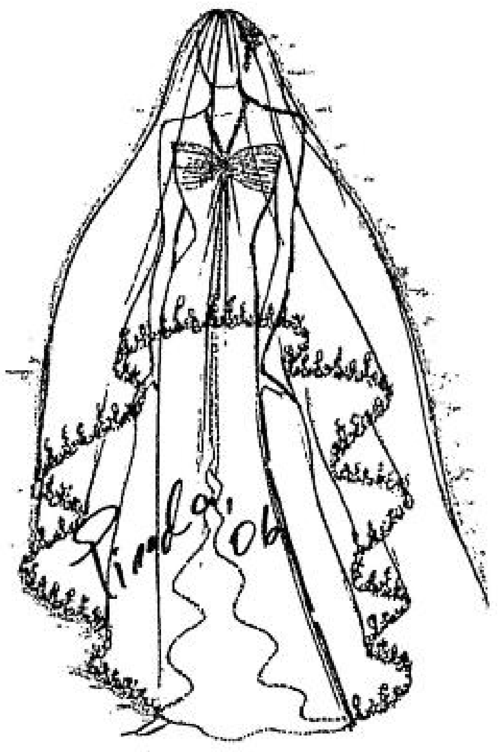
Ronnie Long Jr., son of **Ronald** and **Joyce Long** of Hampton, Virginia, married recently **Kim Luna**, daughter of **Jessie** (deceased) and **Teresita Luna**, at the Seawall side of Hotel Philippine Plaza. The wedding was officiated by Rev. Fr. **Sal Anthony G. Dumabok**.

MORALES-ALEJO

Ariel Morales, son of **Alfredo** and **Elena Morales**, will wed **Jo-ann Alejo**, daughter of **Marcelo Jr.** and **Letecia Alejo**, with a "fairytale" wedding theme on June 10 at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Pasig City. Reception follows at Kowloon House in QC.

The bride will wear a bubble skirt gown of an off-white gazar over a Victorian-inspired bolero for the church and a Chantilly lace coat for the reception. The groom will wear a 19th century-inspired coat of an off-white metallic slubs. The entourage will wear their distinctive designs as princes, princesses, nymphs and fairies in fuchsia, apple green, and orange motif. Design of gown and fresh flower arrangements is by **Junel Lim Gallon**.





CANLAS-MONTANO

Angela Kristine Montano, daughter of **Cesar Montano** and the late **Marlyn Polinga**, exchanged wedding vows yesterday with **Christopher Guillermo Canlas**, son of **Guillermo** and **Elizabeth Canlas**, at the Montano Farms in Pandi, Bulacan.

Eric Pineda designed the bride's gown in ivory silk chiffon mixed with horse hair. It had a ruched bodice embellished with crystals, caviar beads and seed pearls.

GALANG-CARO

Eleanor Caro, daughter of **Renato** and **Elizabeth Caro**, will exchange vows with **Arvin Galang**, son of **Armando** and **Norma Galang**, on May 23 at the Iglesia ni Kristo, Pandacan locale.

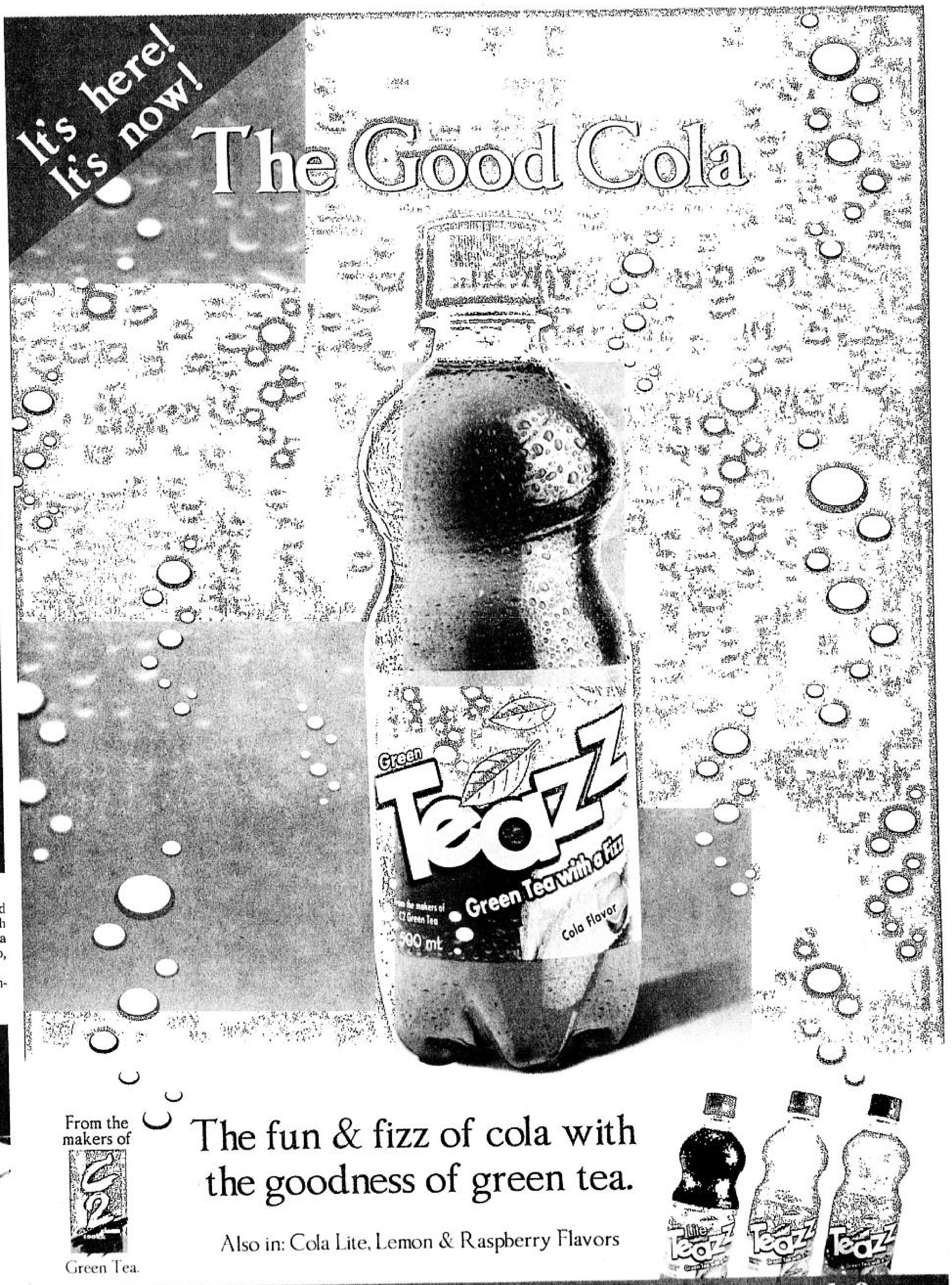
Reception will be held at Casa Blanca, Intramuros.

TUASON GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY

Gerry Tuason, an engineer, and the former **Josie Caravana**, celebrated their golden wedding anniversary recently at the St. Jerome and Sta. Susana Parish Church in Alabang.

Msgr. **Mar Enriquez** and Fr. **Leonard Dollentes** concelebrated the Holy Mass. The reception was held at the Alabang Country Club.

The occasion was attended by their son **Johnny**, Boston-based daughter **Marilou** and husband **Pol**, their family, and friends from United Hills Village and the Rotary Club of Rizal West.



What's the buzz? What's the fizz about this new cola?

IT'S COLA! A lot of people think that cola refers to popular sweet carbonated drinks that are usually caramel or artificially flavored. What they don't know is that cola is actually a flavor derived from cola nuts. And because cola nuts are essential ingredients and flavoring found in carbonated beverages, the name "cola" has been associated with soft drinks and sodas.

But now, here comes a new cola with a twist! The makers of C2 Green Tea introduce a new class of cola drinks: *Green TEAZZ – Green Tea with a fizz!*

IT'S FIZZY! Open a bottle of *Green TEAZZ* and hear that familiar pop and fizzle. Drink it straight from the bottle and feel the tiny bubbles refresh you deep down! Or pour it onto a glass to see the effervescence - thousands of tiny bubbles bursting wildly! That's because *Green TEAZZ* is made with sparkling water that makes it fizzy and outrageously refreshing!

IT'S GREEN TEA! Green TEAZZ has green tea, one of the newest favorite drinks of this fun loving yet health conscious generation. *Green TEAZZ* is made from natural green tea leaves so you can enjoy all their healthy benefits!

Green tea is rich in Catechins, powerful anti-oxidants that do not just inhibit the growth of cancer cells, but kill cancer cells without harming healthy tissue. Catechins are also effective in lowering LDL cholesterol levels, and inhibiting the abnormal formation of blood clots, the leading cause of heart attacks and stroke.

With *Green TEAZZ*, Green Tea with a fizz, you can indulge in your favorite cola flavor, the refreshing fizz of soft drinks, and the goodness of green tea!

Enjoy the fun & fizz of *Green TEAZZ* now! Get them in Robinsons Supermarkets and Ministop Convenience Stores.

'La Miserable'

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

Three years ago, I got involved with a married man. Our relationship went on for three years and those were the best times of my life. I loved him so much and still do.

He made a lot of promises, like we'd eventually be together... that our situation was different and so on. He said he was having a difficult relationship with his wife. I believed him.

Call it pathetic, but he was my world then. Everything revolved around him. I gave up a lot of opportunities just to be with him. I lost a lot of friends after they learned I was having an affair with him. But I didn't mind all the painful remarks because I told myself they would never understand.

There was even a point when he told me that in case his wife found out and made him choose, he would choose me. One year into our relationship, his wife learned about the affair but he didn't leave her as he promised.

Obviously, everything he told me was a lie. Our relationship went on for the next two years until I couldn't take it anymore. I broke up with him.

But I still love him so much, I still do.

Hoping to forget and start a new life, I married a wonderful man two months after. But memories of my ex kept haunting me and I remained hopeful we could be together. We communicated once in a while but I didn't tell him I'd gotten married. I also didn't ask how his life was coming along.

Then something happened. I met someone who was very much like my ex, and all the feelings just came rushing back. This new person is also very much married and we're currently having an affair.

I know it is unfair to my husband but I cannot stop myself. I keep remembering my ex and the only reason I am having this affair now is because I think about him all the time.

As much as I want to start anew, I cannot forget the past or maybe I just don't want to forget the past.

MISERABLE

Running away from your first lover didn't solve anything, did it? You should just have remained with him instead of getting a "clone." You were better off with him because the "collateral damage" was just "confined" to his wife and nobody else. That's not also fair but, at least, you were hot and heavy in love with him, as he "professed" he was with you.

There was a semblance of "truth" then in your "affection" for each other.

You're unfair, you're selfish and you're too self-indulgent. With this new scenario, not only are you deceiving the men around you and using them to ease your loneliness and your longing for your ex. You're in the process of ruining four lives—yours, your husband's, your new lover's, and his wife's.

Like it or not, admit it or not, and whether the wife is aware of her husband's infidelity or not, she is being affected financially and sexually by his affair with you. And these two men (your husband and your new lover) might as well be wearing a mask with your ex's face because that's all you see!

Why are you doing this to yourself? You're apparently not happy doing it because you named yourself Miserable. How long will you be doing this?

What if you get pregnant by your new lover? Will you make your husband responsible for the offspring's well-being?

Developing Alzheimer's or getting a bump on your head to cause amnesia are too cruel and such extreme measures just to forget your past life.

There's another way, a bit more difficult though, called one step at a time. Stop yourself right away when you start thinking about him. Tell yourself that he was nothing but a jerk who wanted a good time. Period.

Wasn't he? Didn't he renege on all his promises to you?

You can only heal yourself one day at a time. Don't underestimate the power of the saying, "If there's a will, there's a way." But if you keep on being hardheaded and believing you can't forget your ex, and continue the lies you're living, then, I think it'll be easier for you to grow feathers than to really take the first step in forgetting him.

Your choice. Your life.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. *Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.*

Only five minutes from San Pedro Exit

Camella
COLINA
San Pedro, Laguna

The space to grow up in,
the place to come home to.

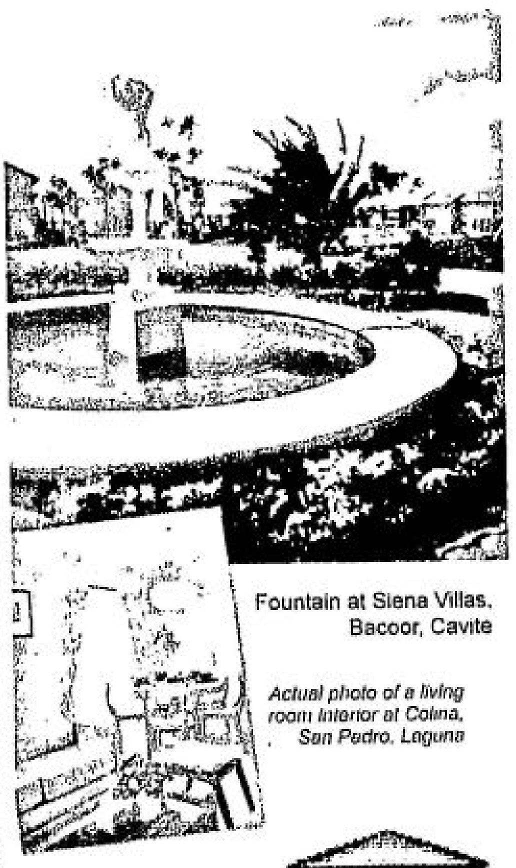
Actual Colina community at San Pedro, Laguna

Crossing boundaries... Camella continues to build quality homes and communities...

For over 30 years, Camella Homes has filled the Philippine landscape with master planned communities and well-planned homes. Thus, providing every home buyer with the most innovative yet practical solutions to a family's daily needs.

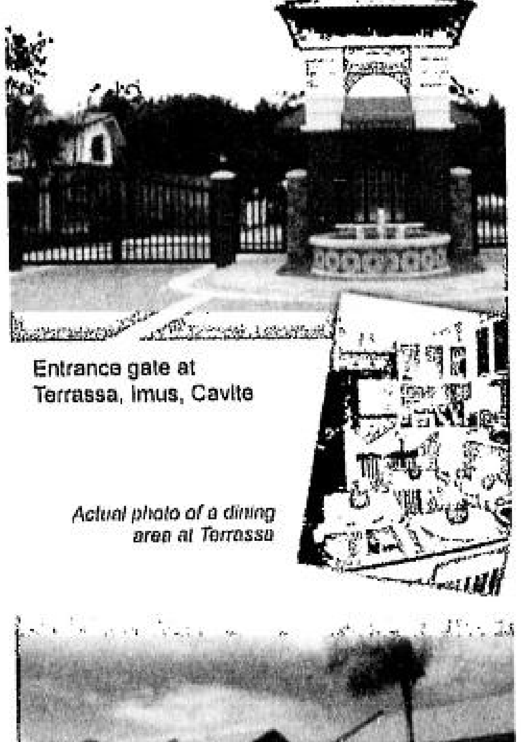
Across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, Camella has various flagship developments to choose from - ranging from bungalows, townhouses, to two-storey homes.

Driven by its vision to provide quality homes for every Filipino, Camella makes you feel most welcome to enjoy the warmth and the secure atmosphere of a friendly Pinoy neighborhood.



Fountain at Siena Villas, Bacoor, Cavite

Actual photo of a living room interior at Colina, San Pedro, Laguna



Entrance gate at Terrassa, Imus, Cavite

Actual photo of a dining area at Terrassa

Actual Tierra del Fuego community at Gen. Trias,Cavite

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Happy Birthday, Mom

'The moment a child is born, the mother is also born. She never existed before. The woman existed, but the mother, never. A mother is something absolutely new' ~Rajneesh

Cooperative opens doors of opportunity

By Marlet D. Salazar

WHEN THE FIRST BATCH OF Centex (Center of Excellence) kids graduated last year, their mothers also entered a new phase in life.

Ayala Foundation Inc (AFI) suggested to the parents, especially the mothers, of the graduates if they were interested in putting up a cooperative. They were delighted with the idea but some had apprehensions if they could actually pull it off. Their primary reason for worry was how to gather initial funding for the business they were going to put up.

Vicky Dantes, 35, whose child finished the entire elementary education at the first Centex school in Tondo, Manila, now serves as treasurer of the cooperative.

She said she felt lucky being part of this project by the foundation because it not only helped her family financially but also boosted their self-esteem. Dantes is a plain housewife who raised her four children (aged 19, 18, 15, and 13) together with her husband who used to work as a taxi driver. Her youngest child is now an incoming second year high school student at the College of Holy Spirit-Centex High School in Mendiola, Manila.

The cooperative now has more than 90 members; six of them serve as board directors.

According to Dantes, it was Carol Atacador of AFI who raised the idea of parents exercising their entrepreneurial skills. In return, the foundation benefits a 10-percent share from the net income of the cooperative. This amount would then be contributed to the funds of Centex schools.

The members originally thought of selling school supplies for the Centex children. The College of Holy Spirit (CHS) offered the canteen business after the former owner left.

Dantes said because this is something new to them, they had worries especially if they could gather enough funds to start a business. To augment the capital for the business, the coop opened its doors to mothers from lower grade levels. They were able to raise P25,000, enough to buy second-hand equipment and as start-up capital.

The mothers held weekly meetings as preparation for the business venture. The canteen is now a year old. Conceptualized April last year, the canteen opened simultaneously with the school opening.

The manager and food crew are also the mothers of the Centex kids. The only outsider they hired was the cook.

"We all help out in the canteen," Dantes said.

Their day begins at 7 a.m. when Dantes, Anita Salaw, and Grace Santamaria purchase the goods to be cooked and sold in the canteen. They have to serve school staff and teachers who take an early lunch at 10 a.m. By noon, students flood the canteen for their lunch break. This is the scenario on school days.

Dantes goes home with her child at 4 p.m. but sometimes gets home around 6 p.m. in Dagupan, Tondo, Manila.

She said her children have become used to the set up. "I don't leave the house until everything is prepared," she said. "What I cook in the morning covers up their meal until dinner."

In the early stages of the business, the members thought of having volunteers to run it. But they soon realized that they would also need to spend for the transportation. Centex is open to children from underprivileged families.

It was soon agreed that volunteers would receive an allowance of P100 a day.

As for the division of labor, it seemed impossible to give a specific task to each person. Everyone had to multi-task to be able to help out during peak hours.

Some members, due to the hard times, took back their contribution. But Dantes said the coop had already advised them not to expect too much for now because they were just starting.

A second batch is now also in the process of forming another coop.

Dantes admits that for a plain housewife like her, this venture was a big help to them. She also learned to deal with different types of people.

Her eldest child now works in a call center but is bent on finishing school. "I told them that they really have to keep going because we want them to all finish school."

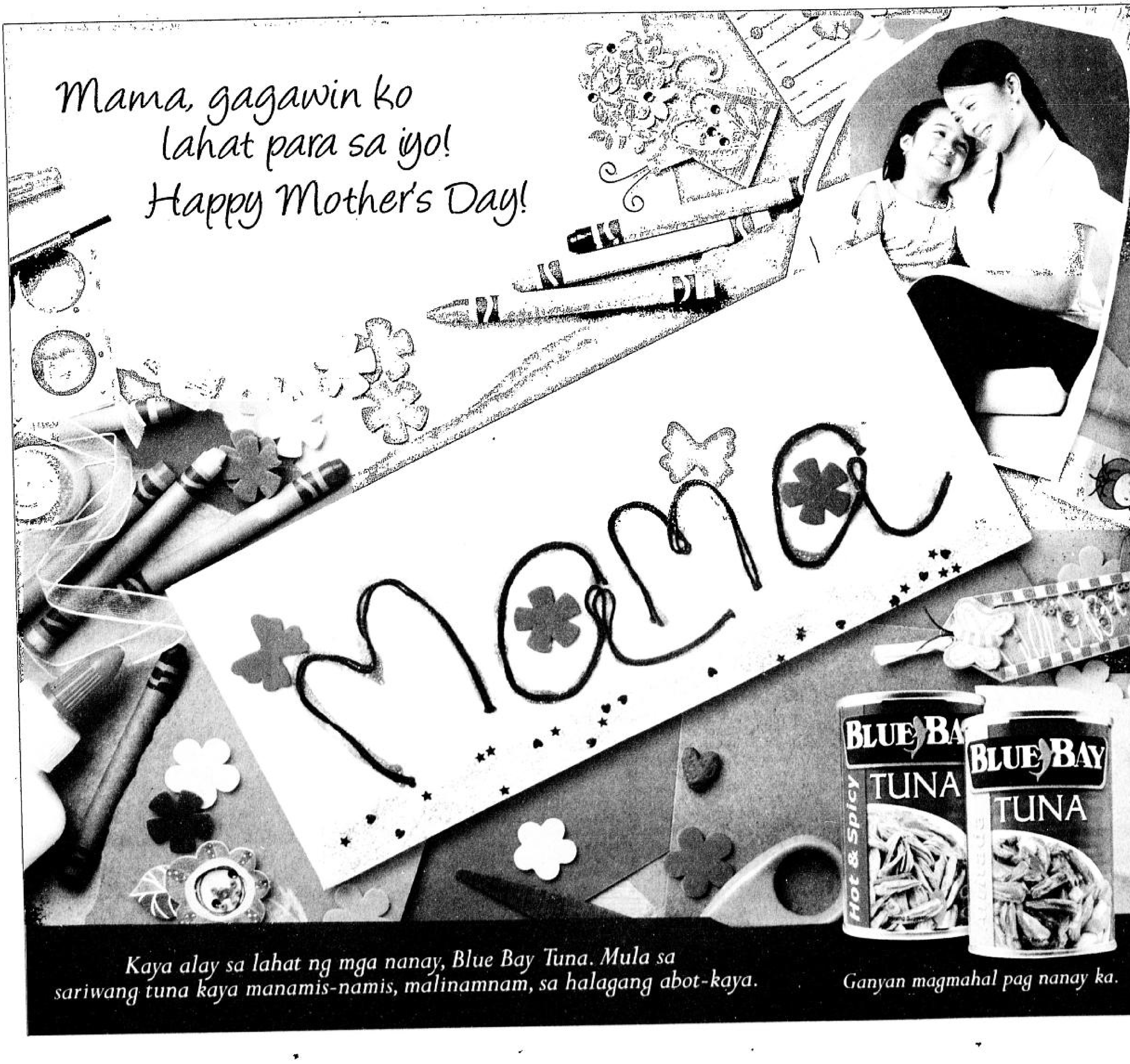
Dantes and husband finished high school, the reason she's proud and delighted to have her kids reach college. She related that her children promised her that when they finish school, they would send her and their father to school so they could also finish at least a vocational course.

Dantes feels that this opportunity to earn allows them to gain more self-esteem. It also gives parents, especially mothers, the chance to meet other people and develop friendships outside of their family life.

She also feels rewarded to be able to contribute to Centex schools in their own little way.

Centex is a collaborative project among corporate funders, the Ayala group of companies through the Ayala Foundation Inc, the local or provincial government where the school is located, the Department of Education, and volunteers. Each can learn much from each other, break the cultural, work and economic barriers between them and ultimately the economic divide on all levels.

Two schools have already been built: Tondo, Manila was built in 1998, and was funded by Ayala Land Inc. The second school was built in 2000 and is located in Bauan, Batangas. It was funded by Globe Telecom and Pure Foods Corp.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lahat para sa iyo!
Happy Mother's Day!
Mama
BLUE BAY
TUNA
Hot & Spicy
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TUNA
Kaya alay sa lahat ng mga nanay, Blue Bay Tuna. Mula sa sariwang tuna kaya manamis-namis, malinamnam, sa halagang abot-kaya.
Ganyan magmahal pag nanay ka.

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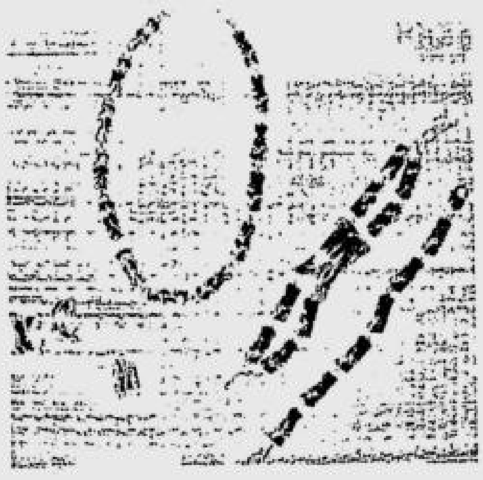

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Brilliance

Mother's Day surprise at the Century Park Hotel

LET CENTURY PARK HOTEL GIVE YOU memorable ways to celebrate the day of the most beloved woman in our lives. Our mentor, best friend, nurturer, model and many more deserves the best Mother's Day surprise on her special day.

For only P895++ per adult and P500++ for children 4 to 12 years old, surprise mom and the whole family with a lunch or dinner buffet at the Café in the Park, where a delightful array of Western and Asian fare awaits. Executive chef Rudy Velasco and his team highlights Duck Gallantine, Prosciutto with Melon or Tuna Sashimi at the cold cuts section; fresh and crisp salads such as Peaches and Cottage Cheese, German Potato Salad or Smoked Chicken Salad; a heart-warming Mom's Favorite Lobster Soup, crispy Lechon or Prime Ribs at the carving section. Mouthwatering dishes such as Eggplant Frittata, Nile Perch Tempura, Chicken Al Fredo, Fish Fillet Milefuile and Inihaw na Kasim are just some of the featured main courses in the hot section. A wide array of heavenly desserts such as Tofu Cheese Cake, Forbidden Cake and Special Taho with Fruit Compote will be a sweet finale for the family's memorable feast.

If mom and the whole family are in the mood for authentic Japanese specialties, Unsui Japanese Restaurant is the place to be. For only 1,200+++, a filling set meal from appetizer to dessert will surely indulge you and your loved ones. Main courses include Lapu-Lapu Moro Miso Yaki (lapu-lapu fillet marinated in miso paste) Ika Siomai (Japanese style siomai), Seafood Kakiage (deep-fried julienne of vegetables with scallops and prawns). Another healthy choice for the calorie conscious moms are the deliciously prepared variety of salmon whether fresh, steamed, deep-fried, grilled or in a hot pot. Must try are Shake Yamamake (sliced fresh salmon with grated Japanese yam), Shake Shinjyo Mushi (steamed grated salmon), Ishikari Nabe (salmon and assorted vegetables in a hot pot with miso paste), and Shake Fray (deep-fried breaded salmon with mixed vegetable salad).

If you opt to surprise mom with a perfect escape to beat the scorching summer heat, take her at the Palm Grove. For only P350 nett for adults and P200 nett for kids, enjoy a refreshing dip from the newly renovated Big Pool, a paradise for all aquatic-fun lovers. Its spacious area will give the whole family an exciting splash activity! Then there's the newly built 3-lane Lapping Pool, for a more intense aquatic workout. The Lapping Pool promises to be a swimming heaven for the more serious swimmers. Both swimming pools have temperature-controlled waters. And for the bubbly therapeutic feel, Jacuzzi is the best choice. Guest and members can use 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday, while on weekends, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Café at the Palm Grove offers a delectable array of summer pleasures to fill your perfect summer indulgence. Take a pick from an array of hefty sandwiches and burgers, appetizing finger foods or your choice of Chef's Platter, to go with the cool and fresh thirst quenchers such as Banana, Mango or Kiwi Flavored Iced Teas.

At the Century Park Hotel, we make Mother's Day the most unforgettable expression of your love for her.

For inquiries and reservations, please call (632)528-5827/29 or e-mail foodbev@centurypark.com.ph

The Century Park Hotel Manila is owned and operated by the Maranaw Hotels and Resort Corporation.

0% interest on mobile phones at GTBC

GRAB THE BEST VALUE deals on popular mobile phones for mom this Mother's Day, only at Globe Telecom Business Centers.

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Avail of a 0 percent interest rate for a 6-month term when you purchase a Nokia 6170, Nokia 7260 or a Motorola E398 Globe prepaid phone kit through your Citibank, HSBC, Bancard, Diners/Security, Metrobank, AIG, Standard Chartered, BPI, and Equitable PCIBank credit cards. Load up P25 worth via AutoloadMAX to receive cool freebies to go with your newly purchased phone.

Premium freebies include sling bags to go with Nokia mobile phones, and travel bags for Motorola handsets.

Avail of these fashionable phones and enjoy Globe's range of services as well as convenient payment terms today.

Exclusively available through the Globe Telecom Business Centers, the 0 percent promo runs from April 22 up to May 15, and is available in Metro Manila only.

Mario's treats mothers

TREAT YOUR MOM AT MARIO'S AND DElight her with a gustatory feast from the Sunday Lunch Buffet and/or our Mother's day special of Tea-Rubbed Salmon or Roasted Tenderloin. Visit Mario's branches at Tomas Morato, Quezon City and Session Road, Baguio. A surprise gift awaits mom on her special day.

Richmonde is all for mom

LET MOM KICK BACK AND RELAX IN THE cozy comforts of Richmonde Hotel's well-appointed rooms and indulge her every wish and whim. All moms checking in from May 12 to 14 at the local residents rate are entitled to join in the Mother's Day raffle. Prizes include gift certificates for room accommodations, buffet lunches, massage services at The Spa and jewelry from Michelis. Plus celebrate mom' special day at the Richmonde Grill. Feast on lavish luncheon buffet of international dishes and many more delectable choices. Priced at P900 net per person, moms also get a special token and a chance to win in the Grill's Mother's Day raffle. For inquiries and reservations, call direct at 689-8419 (Grill), 689-8411/12 (Rooms).

A perfect Mother's Day gift

THIS MOTHER'S DAY, SHOW HOW MUCH you love your mom by giving a gift that will truly pamper her. You can always give the classic staples like flowers, perfume or cake, but something more unique can surely add a special touch. With Titania foot care products combined with your creativity, you can gift your mom with something ultimately touching this Mother's Day.

How to prepare the perfect gift for your mom:

1. Plan and lay-out a certificate of recognition which will also serve as a gift certificate for your mom's home-made foot spa. You can have your own diploma as your guide to making the lay-out. If you need help, ask someone adept in graphics and design, maybe your dad, your sibling, or your friend. Remember, you can always ask a professional to do it for you, but your personal touch is no match to any outsider doing it.

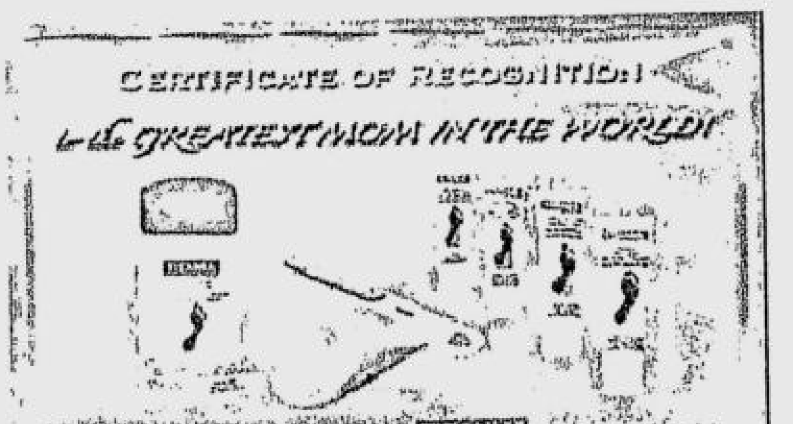
2. Come up with designs that match her personality or anything that can really make her happy. Whether you it's simple design or intricate, surely your mom will be touched by it! Anything goes... you can make it formal as the usual award certificate or make it cool and perky with drawings and a personal poem. You may put her funny picture and a family picture, too. Ask the whole family sign it as well.

3. Plan the home-made foot spa. After the certificate, it's time to plan your home-made foot spa. You can do the spa on your own, as a mom-daughter bonding, or you may ask your dad and siblings if to join in. If they do, some can do the documentation (photo and/or video) and the others can share their part for the spa. Prepare her spa set which can include the following: Titania Vital Foot Bath, Softening Lotion, Protective Balsam, Pumice Sponge, Emery Nail File and Corn Cutter.

4. It's time to reward your mom! On Mother's day, give her the certificate and treat her with your home-made spa: Bathe her feet with warm water and Titania Vital Foot Bath for a relaxing soak. Dissolve 3 scoops in 3 liters of water. Then, rub her feet with Titania Pumice Sponge for deep exfoliation. After bathing, dry her feet thoroughly and apply Titania Softening Lotion for ultra-smooth skin in an instant. Or you can also rub in Titania Protective Balsam to restore and seal in her skin's natural moisture. And to finish off the foot spa, use Titania Emery Nail File to gently round off corners and contour her nails to its perfect shape. You can also use Titania Corn Cutter to make her feet absolutely clean and beautiful!

Happy Mothers' Day from Titania!

Titania beauty care products are exclusively distributed by Filstar Distributors Corp, 2/F Reliance Center Bldg. 99 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. Ugong Pasig City, with tel. nos. 671-0555 and 671-3171. Available at Landmark, Sta. Lucia Grand Mall Department Store, Shopwise Alabang and Libis, and in selected Watson's and Robinson's Department Stores.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GREATEST MOM IN THE WORLD
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ON MOTHERS DAY!

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For more information, please contact ECCel Organics Mfg Inc at tel. nos. 926-1594;928-2002. E-mail: eccelorganics@yahoo.com.

Mother's Day surprise at the Century Park Hotel

LET CENTURY PARK HOTEL GIVE YOU memorable ways to celebrate the day of the most beloved woman in our lives. Our mentor, best friend, nurturer, model and many more deserves the best Mother's Day surprise on her special day.

For only P895++ per adult and P500++ for children 4 to 12 years old, surprise mom and the whole family with a lunch or dinner buffet at the Café in the Park, where a delightful array of Western and Asian fare awaits. Executive chef Rudy Velasco and his team highlights Duck Gallantine, Prosciutto with Melon or Tuna Sashimi at the cold cuts section; fresh and crisp salads such as Peaches and Cottage Cheese, German Potato Salad or Smoked Chicken Salad; a heart-warming Mom's Favorite Lobster Soup, crispy Lechon or Prime Ribs at the carving section. Mouthwatering dishes such as Eggplant Frittata, Nile Perch Tempura, Chicken Al Fredo, Fish Fillet Milefuile and Inihaw na Kasim are just some of the featured main courses in the hot section. A wide array of heavenly desserts such as Tofu Cheese Cake, Forbidden Cake and Special Taho with Fruit Compote will be a sweet finale for the family's memorable feast.

If mom and the whole family are in the mood for authentic Japanese specialties, Unsui Japanese Restaurant is the place to be. For only 1,200+++, a filling set meal from appetizer to dessert will surely indulge you and your loved ones. Main courses include Lapu-Lapu Moro Miso Yaki (lapu-lapu fillet marinated in miso paste) Ika Siomai (Japanese style siomai), Seafood Kakiage (deep-fried julienne of vegetables with scallops and prawns). Another healthy choice for the calorie conscious moms are the deliciously prepared variety of salmon whether fresh, steamed, deep-fried, grilled or in a hot pot. Must try are Shake Yamamake (sliced fresh salmon with grated Japanese yam), Shake Shinjyo Mushi (steamed grated salmon), Ishikari Nabe (salmon and assorted vegetables in a hot pot with miso paste), and Shake Fray (deep-fried breaded salmon with mixed vegetable salad).

If you opt to surprise mom with a perfect escape to beat the scorching summer heat, take her at the Palm Grove. For only P350 nett for adults and P200 nett for kids, enjoy a refreshing dip from the newly renovated Big Pool, a paradise for all aquatic-fun lovers. Its spacious area will give the whole family an exciting splash activity! Then there's the newly built 3-lane Lapping Pool, for a more intense aquatic workout. The Lapping Pool promises to be a swimming heaven for the more serious swimmers. Both swimming pools have temperature-controlled waters. And for the bubbly therapeutic feel, Jacuzzi is the best choice. Guest and members can use 11 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday to Friday, while on weekends, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. The Café at the Palm Grove offers a delectable array of summer pleasures to fill your perfect summer indulgence. Take a pick from an array of hefty sandwiches and burgers, appetizing finger foods or your choice of Chef's Platter, to go with the cool and fresh thirst quenchers such as Banana, Mango or Kiwi Flavored Iced Teas.

At the Century Park Hotel, we make Mother's Day the most unforgettable expression of your love for her.

For inquiries and reservations, please call (632)528-5827/29 or e-mail foodbev@century-park.com.ph

The Century Park Hotel Manila is owned and operated by the Maranaw Hotels and Resort Corporation.

0% interest on mobile phones at GTBC

GRAB THE BEST VALUE deals on popular mobile phones for mom this Mother's Day, only at Globe Telecom Business Centers.

There's a simple, trouble-free way to get a hold of those stylish mobile phone models without making a big dent in your pocket. Just charge it and enjoy easy payment terms.

Avail of a 0 percent interest rate for a 6-month term when you purchase a Nokia 6170, Nokia 7260 or a Motorola E398 Globe prepaid phone kit through your Citibank, HSBC, Bancard, Diners/Security, Metrobank, AIG, Standard Chartered, BPI, and Equitable PCIBank credit cards. Load up P25 worth via AutoloadMAX to receive cool freebies to go with your newly purchased phone.

Premium freebies include sling bags to go with Nokia mobile phones, and travel bags for Motorola handsets.

Avail of these fashionable phones and enjoy Globe's range of services as well as convenient payment terms today.

Exclusively available through the Globe Telecom Business Centers, the 0 percent promo runs from April 22 up to May 15, and is available in Metro Manila only.

Mario's treats mothers

TREAT YOUR MOM AT MARIO'S AND DElight her with a gustatory feast from the Sunday Lunch Buffet and/or our Mother's day special of Tea-Rubbed Salmon or Roasted Tenderloin. Visit Mario's branches at Tomas Morato, Quezon City and Session Road, Baguio. A surprise gift awaits mom on her special day.

Richmonde is all for mom

LET MOM KICK BACK AND RELAX IN THE cozy comforts of Richmonde Hotel's well-appointed rooms and indulge her every wish and whim. All moms checking in from May 12 to 14 at the local residents rate are entitled to join in the Mother's Day raffle. Prizes include gift certificates for room accommodations, buffet lunches, massage services at The Spa and jewelry from Michelis. Plus celebrate mom' special day at the Richmonde Grill. Feast on lavish luncheon buffet of international dishes and many more delectable choices. Priced at P900 net per person, moms also get a special token and a chance to win in the Grill's Mother's Day raffle. For inquiries and reservations, call direct at 689-8419 (Grill), 689-8411/12 (Rooms).

A perfect Mother's Day gift

THIS MOTHER'S DAY, SHOW HOW MUCH you love your mom by giving a gift that will truly pamper her. You can always give the classic staples like flowers, perfume or cake, but something more unique can surely add a special touch. With Titania foot care products combined with your creativity, you can gift your mom with something ultimately touching this Mother's Day.

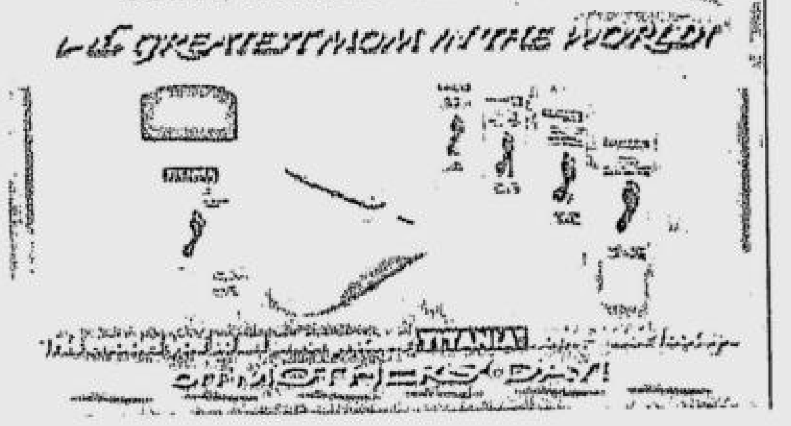
How to prepare the perfect gift for your mom:

1. Plan and lay-out a certificate of recognition which will also serve as a gift certificate for your mom's home-made foot spa. You can have your own diploma as your guide to making the lay-out. If you need help, ask someone adept in graphics and design, maybe your dad, your sibling, or your friend. Remember, you can always ask a professional to do it for you, but your personal touch is no match to any outsider doing it.

2. Come up with designs that match her personality or anything that can really make her happy. Whether you it's simple design or intricate, surely your mom will be touched by it! Anything goes... you can make it formal as the usual award certificate or make it cool and perky with drawings and a personal poem. You may put her funny picture and a family picture, too. Ask the whole family sign it as well.

3. Plan the home-made foot spa. After the certificate, it's time to plan your home-made foot spa. You can do the spa on your own, as a mom-daughter bonding, or you may ask your dad and siblings if to join in. If they do, some can do the documentation (photo and/or video) and the others can share their part for the spa. Prepare her spa set which can include the following: Titania Vital Foot Bath, Softening Lotion, Protective Balsam, Pumice Sponge, Emery Nail File and Corn Cutter.

4. It's time to reward your mom! On Mother's day, give her the certificate and treat her with your home-made spa: Bathe her feet with warm water and Titania Vital Foot Bath for a relaxing soak. Dissolve 3 scoops in 3 liters of water. Then, rub her feet with Titania Pumice Sponge for deep exfoliation. After bathing, dry her feet thoroughly and apply Titania Softening Lotion for ultra-smooth skin in an instant. Or you can also rub in Titania Protective Balsam to restore and seal in her skin's natural moisture. And to finish off the foot spa, use Titania Emery Nail File to gently round off corners and contour her nails to its perfect shape. You can also use Titania Corn Cutter to make her feet absolutely clean and beautiful!



Happy Mothers' Day from Titania!

Titania beauty care products are exclusively distributed by Filstar Distributors Corp, 2/F Reliance Center Bldg. 99 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave Ugong Pasig City, with tel. nos. 671-0555 and 671-3171. Available at Landmark, Sta. Lucia Grand Mall Department Store, Shopwise Alabang and Libis, and in selected Watson's and Robinson's Department Stores.

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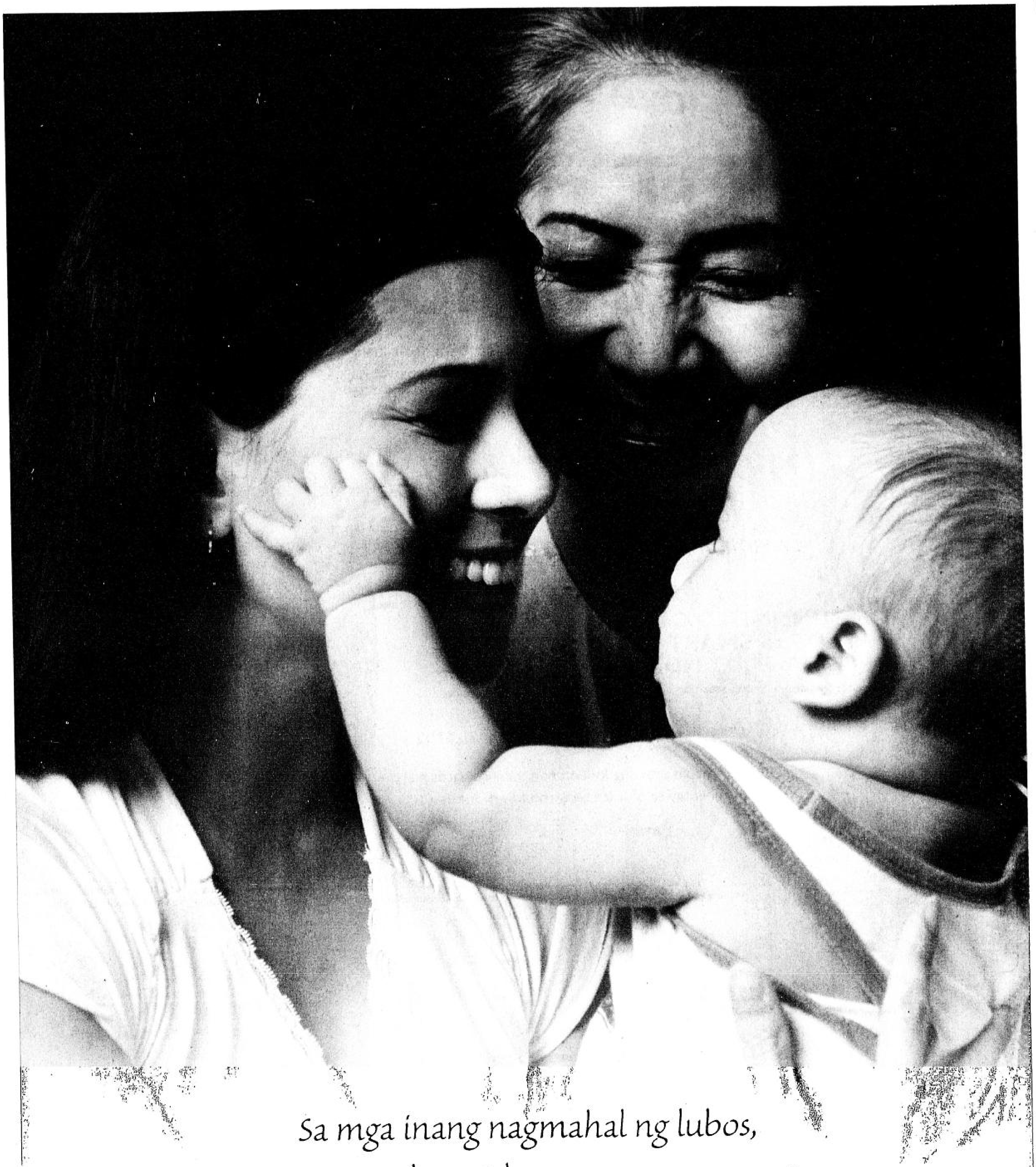


Sa mga inang nagmahal ng lubos,
sa bawat henerasyon...

Maraming Salamat.

Happy Mother's Day mula sa Johnson's Baby.

Johnson & Johnson (Philippines), Inc.
50 Years
Committed to Caring

Celebrate 50 years of motherhood with Johnson's Baby
Mommy Stories at the Power Plant Mall on May 13 and 14, 2006

For all her love and sacrifices...

PLDT pays tribute to Moms

Mga mommy, reregaluhan kayo ng PLDT ngayong Mother's Month. Iba't-ibang special treats ang handog para sa pinakamahalagang babae sa buhay ng bawat isa.

Special kurot sa puso -

Libreng Tawag

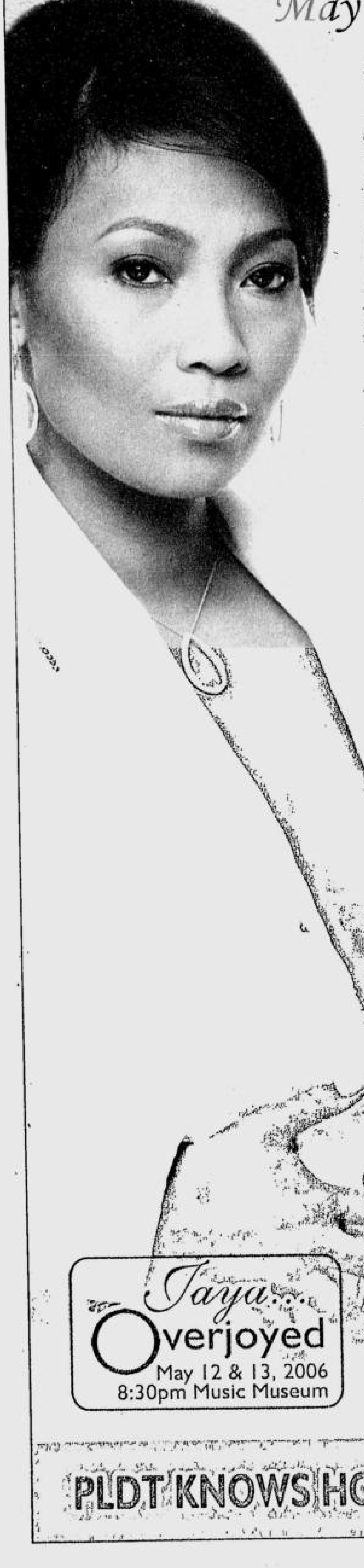
from May 8-31
kay mommy saan man siya!

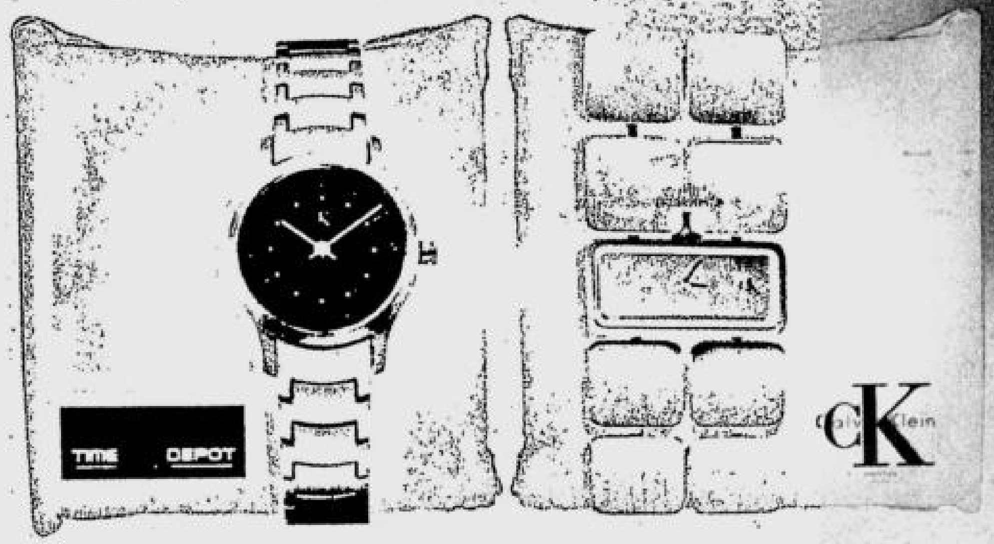
Free!
ONE UNLIMITED CALL
PLDT to SMART
PLDT to PLDT NDD
* Open to unlimited call service subscribers only

Free!
ONE MINUTE
IDD
CALL
* for a minimum of 3-minute call

May special lambing pa kay nanay!

At kahit mapasarap ang kwentuhan, may rewards na naghihintay sa bawat tawag mo kay mommy.





Earn one raffle entry for every P50 NDD or IDD call you make from May 8 - 31 for a chance to win one of the 10 exclusive wristwatches.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0914, Series of 2006

I did it my way
paul anka
live in manila
MAY 14 & 15, 2006
ARANETA COLISEUM

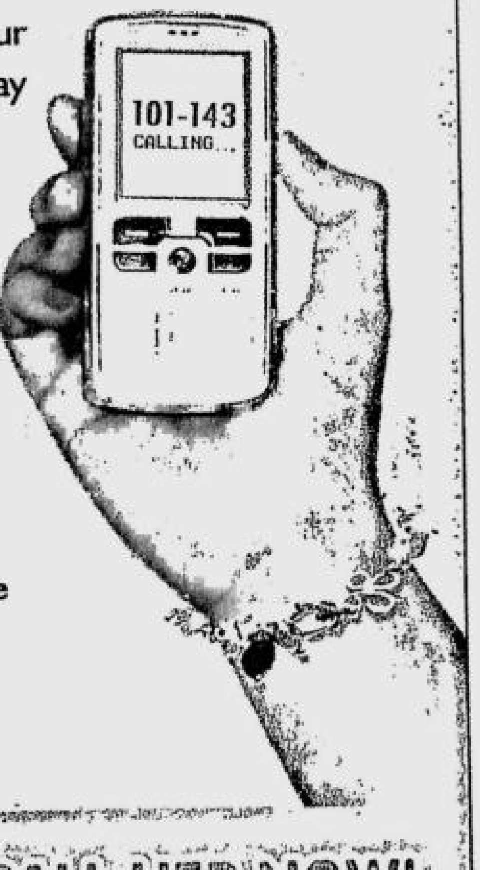
Because mommy did it her way, PLDT special moms will be serenaded by Paul Anka in his Manila concert.

Special ways to tell her "I love you" with Jaya - the Queen of soul!

Jaya and Ogie, took time out from their busy schedules to render songs and record poems which you can listen to for FREE. Hit songs such as "Kung Mawawala Ka", "Pangarap Ko Ang Ibigin Ka" and "Kailangan Kita" can be sent to your mom's PLDT landline or SMART cellphone for just P10 per send. You can also record your own mother's day greeting.

She will be truly surprised when she hears the songs, poems and your very special dedication on her Smart or PLDT phone on Mother's Day and everyday of the month!

Step 1: Dial 101-143
Step 2: Press 1 for Jaya
Press 2 for Ogie
Step 3: Listen and send song or poem
Step 4: Enter your Mom's PLDT landline or Smart cellphone. Your Mom's phone will receive your message.



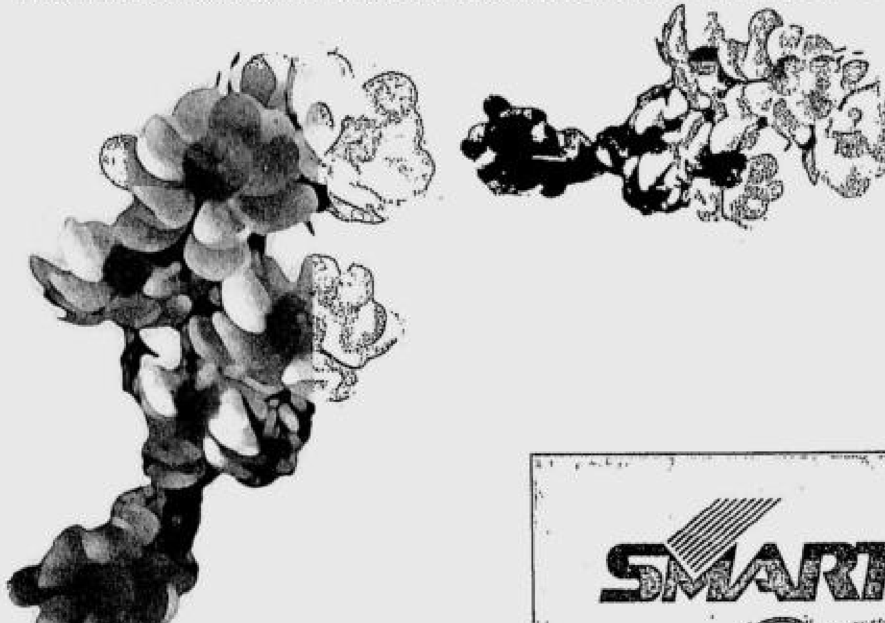
PLDT *Especially for Moms*
Dial 101-143

Jaya...
Overjoyed
May 12 & 13, 2006
8:30pm Music Museum

PLDT KNOWS HOW TO MAKE EVERY MOM FEEL TRULY SPECIAL. CALL HER NOW!

Happy 'Birthday', Mom

'The moment a child is born, the mother is also born. She never existed before. The woman existed, but the mother, never. A mother is something absolutely new' ~Rajneesh



So how did the Mother's Day celebrations begin?

By Joel V. Nigos

WE MAY ALL KNOW WHY AND WHEN TO celebrate Mother's Day but there may be little knowledge how it started. The following traces the early history and the beginning of Mother's Day in modern times.

There are various versions as to the origin of Mother's Day but most agree that the earliest celebrations occurred in ancient Greece to honor Rhea, the mother of ancient Greek gods.

In ancient Rome, Romans celebrated a holiday in honor of Cybele, a mother goddess from March 22 to 25. These celebrations were notorious enough that followers of Cybele were banished from Rome.

In the British Isles and Celtic Europe, the goddess Brigid, and later her successor St. Brigid, were honored with a spring Mother's Day, which is connected with the first milk of the ewes.

During modern times, England began to celebrate "Mothering Sunday" in the 17th century. The name evolved from the custom of baking a special cake, called a mothering cake, to take on visits to mother. Today in England, "Mothering Sunday" is celebrated on the 4th Sunday of Lent (the 40-day period leading up to Easter.)

But the Mother's Days we know today was originally conceived by social activist Julia Howard Howe during the American Civil War with a call to unite women against war. She wrote the Mother's Day Proclamation in 1870 which saw a day dedicated to peace after having lived through the horrors of war.

Howe, however, failed in her attempt to get formal recognition of a Mother's Day for Peace.

Anna Jarvis, a native of Philadelphia, is credited by most with the official observance of Mother's Day in the United States. Jarvis wanted a way to honor her beloved mother, Anna Reese Jarvis, who died in 1905. The idea probably came from Anna Reese herself, who, in the late 19th century, had tried to establish "Mother's Friendship Days" as a way to help heal the scars of the Civil War.

On May 10, 1908, the first Mother's Day observance was held—a Church service in Grafton, Virginia, and in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania arranged by Anna Jarvis herself. The custom eventually spread to 45 states. In 1912, it was declared as an official holiday by some states. In 1914, President Woodrow Wilson declared the first national Mother's Day in the States.

Almost immediately, Mother's Day became an enormously commercial holiday. Disillusioned by commercialism, Jarvis spent the rest of her life working diligently to reverse what she believed she played a major role to create. At one point, she filed a lawsuit to stop a 1923 Mother's Day festival and was even arrested for disturbing the peace at a war mother's day convention where women were selling white carnations to raise money. "This is not what I wanted," said Jarvis. "I wanted it to be a day of sentiment, not profit." By the time she died in 1948 at age 84, Jarvis, who was never married and was never a mother, had spent all her money unsuccessfully trying to stop the commercialization of the holiday she worked hard to found.

Today, Mother's Day is being celebrated throughout the world. In most countries, its concept is copied from the West. In many African countries, it has its origins from the British concept. In most of East Asia, it is a heavily marketed and commercialized concept copied straight from how the States celebrates it. Countries such as Denmark, Finland, Italy, Turkey, Australia and Belgium, celebrate the occasion on the same day it is celebrated in the Philippines and the States.

Though Mother's Days are celebrated on different dates because of its different origins, they are celebrated primarily for the same reason—that is, to celebrate motherhood and to thank and honor mothers. Sources: *www.wikipedia.org, www.about.com and www.blackdog4kids.com*

SMART GOLD

On her special day, show her how much you care.

This Mother's Day, send your Mom these heartwarming and memorable downloads from SMART Gold.

WALLPAPERS
Text **MMS <keyword>** to **235.** Ex. **MMS hapimomday**

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momdayflowers
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no1mommy
missmymomsad
wantmymom
momdayboy
momdayharp
weluvmomdogs
luvmommygirl
mommygirl
thankgodmom
wantmymommy
urdbest

LOGOS
Text **LOGO <keyword>** to **235.** Ex **LOGO luvmombear**

luvmombear
iluvmom
luvmomplane
no1mom
luvmomstik
pandamama

PICTURE MESSAGES
Text **PIC <keyword>** to **235** Ex **PIC momsday**

hapimomday
coolmom
momsday

TONES
For monotones, text **TONE <keyword>** to **235.** Ex **TONE beautiful**
For polytones, text **POLY <keyword>** to **235.** Ex. **POLY beautiful**

Songs	Keywords
For the World (Barbie)	fortheworld
Anak (Freddie Aguilar)	anak
Each Day With You (Martin Nievera)	eachdaywithyou
Kung Kailangan Mo Ako	kungkailanganmoako
Everything You Do (Christian Bautista)	everythingudo
Woman (Maroon 5)	woman
Beautiful (Christina Aguilera)	beautiful
Colors Everywhere (Christian Bautista)	coloreverywhere
Moonriver (Andy Williams)	moonriver
The Warrior Is A Child	warriorisachild

Get a chance to win instant load and a
Grand Prize of
P100,000 cash
to be spent on a domestic location of your choice – when you subscribe or download Mother's Day contents!

See flyers for details. Promo runs until May 31, 2006.
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 2251, Series of 2006.

INFO-TEXT
For daily tips on how to save, text **SAVE** to 206.
For daily tips on caring for your family and home, text **CARE** to 206.
For daily tips on pampering yourself, text **PAMPER** to 206.

SET SMART MMS & GPRS IN YOUR CELFONE:
Text SET <phone model> to 211. Ex. SET N6600

Text messages cost P2.50 each.
Ringtones, Logos, Picture Messages, MMS Images are P15.00 each.

Text **MAMA** to **235**
to get a sweet Mother's Day picture greeting you can send mom + weekly cartoon pics.
For MMS, text MAMAMMS to 235.

Open to all SMART Subscribers:

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Information Gateway

For questions, comments, or concerns, you may call the SMART Hotline at 888-1111; *888 using your SMART celfone; the SMART Corporate Hotline at #888, send a text message to 888 (Standard rate in excess of the FREE TEXT allocation applies), e-mail us at smartgold@smart.com.ph, visit our website at www.smart.com.ph, or visit the SMART Wireless Center nearest you.

SMART
Simply Amazing!

A bite of good health

Gardenia
HACCP

THESE DAYS, ENJOYING THE gift of fitness is a must, especially for Moms whose hands are always full with tasks at home and at work. In looking for the perfect gift for Mom this Mother's Day, think of something that would keep her healthy and delighted at the same time. One of the best gifts that Mom would surely appreciate is the delightful combination of goodness and health that comes in every Gardenia bread.

Gardenia offers not just one but three "healthylicious" products to keep Mom in tip top shape not just on Mothers' Day but the whole year round!

Made of whole meal flour, Gardenia High Fiber Wheat Bread is a 100-percent wheat product containing all the wonderful health benefits of fiber fortified with vitamins and minerals to help maintain Mom's blood pressure and cholesterol at normal levels. Remember that fiber also helps in the prevention of constipation and reduces the intestine's exposure to substances that promote cancer.

Osteoporosis is a common ailment among women. As women get older, more bones are broken down than reformed and this causes loss of bone density and strength. Make sure that Mom is getting enough Calcium for her body by giving her Gardenia Hi Calcium Loaf. Calcium content isn't the only good thing about this loaf, it also contains Vitamin B1 (Thiamine) which helps the brain to function properly, Vitamin B12 (Riboflavin) which promotes normal metabolism and growth, Vitamin B3 (Niacin) which helps the body absorb nutrients that provide energy faster and Vitamin C which helps strengthen the immune system.

Gardenia Whole Wheat Bun completes the line up. This bread can be Mom's best friend in keeping her weight in check. Heart disease can also be kept at bay with cracked whole wheat. Together with a low fat diet, it may help decrease bad cholesterol that can cause heart attack.

Surprise Mom with a bag full of these Gardenia healthy goodies and make her feel that it's now your turn to take good care of her.

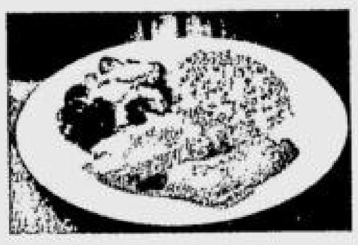
A hearty, slow-cooked treat at Chili's for Mom's special day

MOTHER'S DAY IS PERHAPS one of the most celebrated occasions not only in the Philippines but in the world. On May 14, celebrate the giver of life, love and nurturing with a special lunch or dinner at Chili's.

Treat her to a steak at Chili's. Chili's Braised Asian Steak is just the kind of comfort food she has provided. Like Mom's love, Chili's Braised Asian Steak is premium U.S beef slow-cooked until tender and suffused with flavorful Asian aromat spices. It is served with a hearty helping of pueblo rice and always-fresh veggies.

Chili's is also giving away a little something to all mothers on May 14. You may also choose other hefty-sized dishes from Chili's extensive menu which includes steaks, fajitas, sandwiches, big-mouth burgers, guiltless grill favorites, and to-be-shared desserts. Even the little ones have a choice from the Chili's menu, just as a hungry horde can select from Chili's party platters.

Versatile, flavorful and always fun, Chili's treats are perfect for everyone, mothers especially. So honor your mom at any of the family-friendly Chili's branches located at Missouri cor. Nevada Sts. In Northeast Greenhills; Greenbelt 1 in Ayala Center, Makati; and Tomas Morato in Quezon City. You may also call any of the individual branches for reservations.



Bubba Gump offers Alabama Mud Pie on Mother's day

ON MOTHER'S DAY WEEKend, the restaurant inspired by the hit movie Forest Gump will offer a "sweet" tribute to mothers. Bubba Gump Shrimp Company Restaurant will give out an ultra yummy and mouth watering slice of the restaurant's most famous dessert - Albama Mud Pie to every mama on May 14. For a dine-in bill of at least P2,750, a mothers who come to Bubba Gump on the aforementioned date will get a free Alabama Mud Pie cake for her to enjoy with the rest of the family.

Diners will definitely experience the nurturing and warm attitude of the Bubba Gump crew, following the tradition of Mrs. Gump to always reserve a seat at the dinner table for hungry folks who come to her home. That is why on May 14, Bubba Gump will give back a little and honor Mrs. Gump and all other Mamas out there - in appreciation for mothers everywhere who save the best piece of cake for their kids no matter what! Happy Mother's Day!

For inquiries and reservations, call 757-5154 or 757-5104 or visit customer@bubbagump.com.ph.

Celebrate Mom at Cravings

ABOVE: Stuffed Chicken Breast with Roasted tomato rice and mushroom sauce. Below: Pepper-crusted Fish Fillet with vegetable mashed potato and pomodoro sauce

CRAVINGS RESTAURANT has continually delighted customers with its home-style cooking and homey ambience. From a quaint bakeshop in Katipunan 17 years ago, Cravings has grown into a business enterprise offering largely due to the fact that behind its success is the mother and daughter tandem of Annie Guerrero and Badjie Guerrero-Trinidad.

Unknown to many, Annie's recipes which were perfected in the Guerrero household kitchen are now on the menu of Cravings while the desserts are special creations of Badjie. With the strong bond of mother and daughter in the kitchen, and honing their skills through further culinary education, Annie and Badjie have perfected the "family-feel" of whipping up meals and desserts. And it shows in the menu of Cravings.

Through the years, moms have developed the affection for Cravings because it reminds them of the meals they cook at home. To fete the moms, Cravings has prepared a special menu as part of the "Mother knows best" ongoing until May 15. There will be activities and surprises in store for moms. This special menu will be available at all Cravings outlets all over the metropolis.

The Mother's Day Set Menu consists of two options: Stuffed Chicken Breast with Roasted tomato rice and mushroom sauce or the Pepper-crusted Fish Fillet with vegetable mashed potato and pomodoro sauce.

The first is a herb-crusted chicken breast stuffed with spinach and cheddar cheese served with creamy mushroom sauce and tomato-flavored rice. It is affordable for only P250 with unlimited trips to the soup and salad bar. The second option is a black peppercorn-crusted fish fillet served with breaded mashed potato and vegetables on herbed tomato. This is for only P285 with unlimited trips to the soup and salad bar.

These special "hearty" meals convey our appreciation to our mothers for what they've done for us. This year's celebration is special because Cravings has partnered with two equally exciting brands very much suited to the restaurant's appeal that would delight mothers, The Suriya Spa and the Gingersnaps apparel.

Get Gingersnaps voucher for a minimum P750 inclusive of any Mother's Day meal (single receipt), while on Mother's Day, May 14, special Suriya Spa gift packs will be given out for a minimum order of P2,500 inclusive of any Mother's Day meal (single receipt).

Cravings outlets are located at Katipunan Ave., Quezon City (426-6681 to 88); Tomas Morato, Quezon City (426-9736); 5th level Shangri-La Mall (635-6672), Fraser Place Serviced Residence (815-4271), Makati; 3rd level Festival Mall (850-4437); and Fortune Promenade Building, West Avenue, Quezon City (929-1427). For comments and inquiries, write to marketing@cravingsgroup.com.

smart
Parent
Good Ho
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Surprise Beauty From Head To Toe
a break
Discover Puerto Princesa, Camiguin, Siquijor, and
Treat Yourself
YOU!

Only the best for Mom!

This Mother's Day, give your mom a subscription to the magazines that love mothers most — Good Housekeeping and Smart Parenting. Let your gift be a constant reminder of how much she is appreciated and loved.

smart Parenting
RAISING EMOTIONALLY INTELLIGENT KIDS
Straight facts on breastfeeding beyond age one
TEACHING KIDS TO LOVE READING
This mom's made of tough stuff!
60 ANTI-KALAT STEPS TO A STRESS-FREE FAMILY
BRAIN DEVELOPMENT
Spending secrets for a happy New School Year
Good Housekeeping
Easy-to-make 5-ingredient dinners
Quick Cleanup Tricks
Quit smoking now!
Back-to-school how-tos
Deal with messy mornings
Get a financial scholarship
Encourage a lazy kid to study
CARMINA VILLAROEL

Happy Mother's Day!

For subscriptions, log on to
http://www.summitmedia.com.ph/subscribe
or call *689-1025 or 637-2200* for more details.

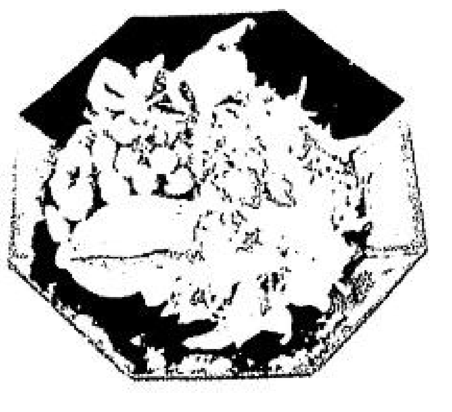
SUMMIT

A Japanese feast for her

FOR THE PROPOSITION THAT NO MOM shall cook on Mother's Day, the best place to treat her is at Nippon Japanese Restaurant. Mom's Japanese feast can start with an appetizer of salmon sashimi, pink fleshed fresh salmon that melts in the mouth. Then, follow this up with a varied selection, like kisu amiyaki, delicate asohos with amiyaki sauce; tofu mushroom-a dish of deep fried tofu with four kinds of mushrooms; Mixed Seafood Teppanyaki; Chahan, or Japanese fried rice, not to forget their Gyuhire Tataki, medium rare beef with special sauce. Isn't this a great meal for our great mom who only deserves the best? What's more, Nippon Restaurant offers you authentic Japanese food at affordable prices with a Mother's Day surprise.

Nippon Japanese Restaurant is open daily (Monday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., 6 p.m. to 11 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., 5:30 to 10:30 p.m.). It's located at the 2nd floor Forum Building, Tomas Morato corner Sct. Limbaga Street, Quezon City. For reservations and more information, call 927-0649.

Kisu Amiyaki, Grilled Asohos with Amiyaki Sauce



Mixed Seafood Teppanyaki

For Mom, whose beauty is timeless

SHE MAY HAVE GAINED SEVERAL POUNDS after giving birth, or cut off her long mane for that no-fuss look usually deemed appropriate for busy moms. Menopause may even have caused her skin dry and prone to irritations.

Yes, dear Mom may have lost her youth with the passing years but for all of us whom she relentlessly cared for and loved, her beauty remains aglow and unmatched.

This Mother's Day, give Mom a special present, something that would make her feel how timeless her beauty is. A great gift suggestion is an image dresser that Mom would find very practical to use every day.

Caha de Oro's Image Dresser has all the essentials that Mom needs in a dresser. Not only does it boast of spacious drawers to keep Mom's apparel in an organized fashion, it also has vanity compartments to accommodate Mom's grooming items.

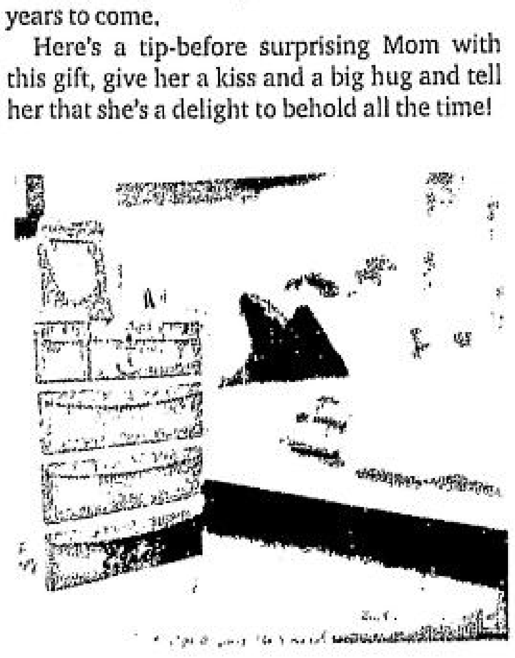
Caha de Oro's Image Dresser features a flip-open vanity mirror that Mom can replace when needed, and a vanity compartment where she can store her cosmetics, scents, hairbrush, and other beauty products.

The Image Dresser also has a built-in photo frame where she can display photos of treasured moments, plus an elegant quartz clock to keep her aware of the time.

To top it all, the Image Dresser has 18K gold-plated security locks to secure Mom's jewelry and other valuable items.

And because the Image Dresser is a product of Orocan, its durability is guaranteed, hence, will stay in good shape with Mom for many years to come.

Here's a tip-before surprising Mom with this gift, give her a kiss and a big hug and tell her that she's a delight to behold all the time!



Treat her like a queen

LET'S CELEBRATE THE MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN OUR lives, as The Sulo Hotel prepares a royal treat for our mothers, who will always be the queen in our hearts.

A celebration fit for a queen on the Mother's Day Grand Buffet on May 14 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Café Paraiso and Lobby Lounge features a majestic feast of the all-time favorite Sulo dishes for only P450++.

Special gifts and prizes await all mothers this day. For inquiries and reservations, call 924-5051 to 71, or visit The Sulo Hotel located along Matalino Road, Diliman, Quezon City. Log on to www.soluhotel.com.ph.

Strategically located, The Sulo Hotel offers no traffic on the way and has a secure and spacious parking lot.

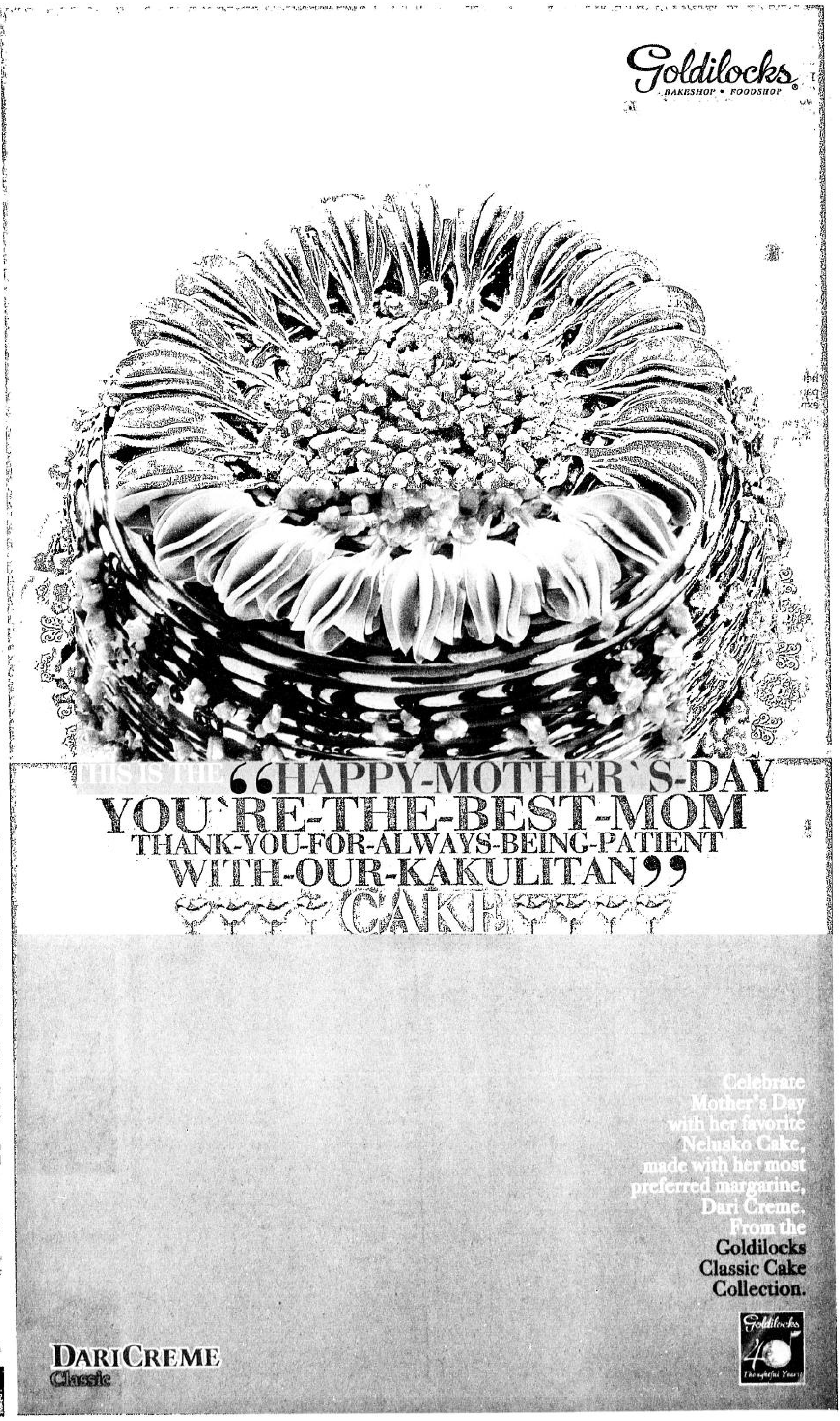
'Seventh Heaven for Moms' at Seven Suites

MOMS CAN RELAX, RECHARGE AND REDISCOVER the wonders of life at Seven Suites Hotel Observatory as it marks Mother's Day week with a "Seventh Heaven" package especially suited for them. Moms can relax in a haven amidst the vast constellations and panoramic view of the metropolis at the hotel's roof deck observatory, where they can go stargazing with the use of a telescope. To cap the day, they can recharge at the al fresco deck with a massage and cool refreshments and prepare to rediscover what Antipolo can offer with its various tourist attractions the next day.

The "Seventh Heaven" Mother's Day Package at Seven Suites, which will run until today, is a special treat that moms can enjoy with the whole family. Moms will be given a bouquet of flowers, a special gift and a complimentary foot or back massage with refreshment at the hotel's al fresco deck. The package also includes overnight stay with breakfast and dinner while the whole family can enjoy the tour to the various sites in Antipolo and go star gazing at night with an astro lecture from the in-house astronomer. This package is available for as low as P3,500++.

To complement the Mom's Day festivities, the Seven Suites Art Gallery features "Heavens, Flowers & Mothers," a special art exhibit presented by EuroAsia Arts International. And on Mother's Day, the hotel has prepared a special Mongolian buffet for only P220++ per head. Moms dine for free if they are a family of four.

Seven Suites Hotel Observatory, now on its eighth year, is located at Hollywood Hills Subdivision, Sumulong Highway, Antipolo City (across Valley Golf Country Club). It is just 30 minutes away from Cubao or Ortigas and 15 minutes from the Marcos Highway in Pasig. For more information, call 682-0330 or 682-2076.


Goldilocks
BAKESHOP • FOODSHOP
THIS IS THE "HAPPY-MOTHER'S-DAY
YOU'RE-THE-BEST-MOM
THANK-YOU-FOR-ALWAYS-BEING-PATIENT
WITH-OUR-KAKULITAN"
CAKE
Celebrate Mother's Day with her favorite Neluako Cake, made with her most preferred margarine, Dari Creme. From the Goldilocks Classic Cake Collection.
Goldilocks
40 Thoughtful Years
DARI CREME
Classic

Mother's Day Proclamation

Julia Howard Howe

From the voice of a devastated Earth a voice goes up with
Our own. It says: "Disarm! Disarm!
The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."
Blood does not wipe our dishonor,
Nor violence indicate possession.
As men have often forsaken the plough and the anvil at the summons of war,
Let women now leave all that may be left of home
For a great and earnest day of counsel.
Let them meet first, as women, to bewail and commemorate the dead.
Let them solemnly take counsel with each other as to the means
Whereby the great human family can live in peace…

She lives it up, has it her way

IT SEEMS JUST LIKE YESTERDAY WHEN Rinnah Sevilla left the advertising world and started her own family. A bold move for someone ensconced in a field a lot of young career people would give an arm and leg for. Her next stop was to work with the youth, promoting education, culture and history. She next delved into television, commercial and print modeling. It has been quite a colorful journey and Rinnah has never looked back.

Year 2001 was when she joined Hands On!, the Europe Conference of Children's museums wherein she met museum directors from Europe, United States and Asia. Her work with Hands On! afforded her much deserved opportunities to visit museums in London and Paris. This same experience and exposure also qualified her to head the team that did major renovations of Museo Pambata's theme rooms.

Today, as a Young People's Program Officer for the Ayala Museum, Rinnah continues on "having it her way", working to impart to Generation X, Y and anyone in between the rich culture and artistry that is distinctly Filipino and world-renowned. Asked about the best part of working in Ayala Museum, she says it's "meeting Filipino artists and working with them in different projects, having the opportunity everyday to look at paintings of Fernando Amorsolo, Juan Luna, and abstract artist Fernando Zobel" Asked about the ultimate favorite part of working in a museum setting? The down-to-earth Rinnah quips "getting autographs of my favorite artists."

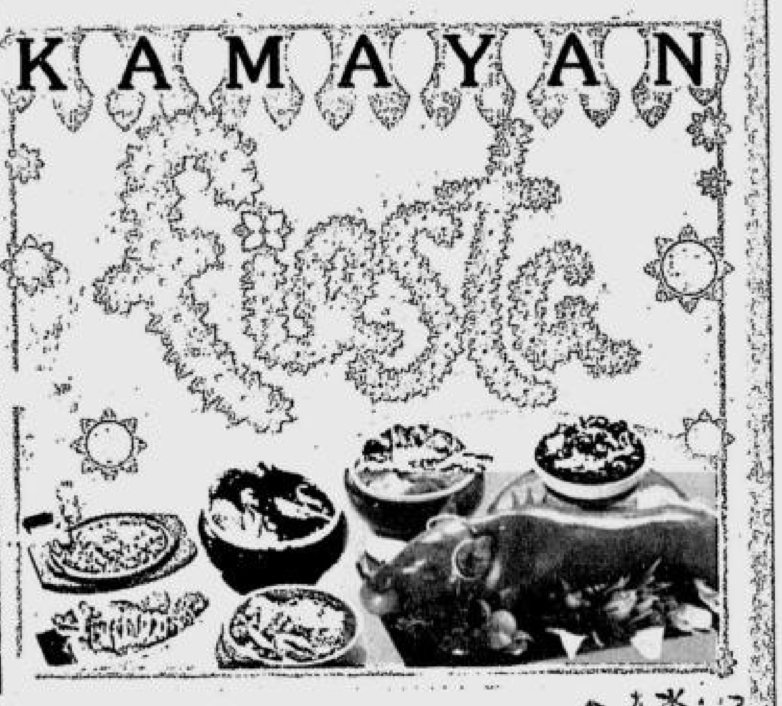
Asked about the most challenging part of working in the educational field of museums, Rinnah turns serious. "It's developing programs to 'sell' the museum to the public. Example, for children to understand abstract painting, we may let them do finger painting or marble painting, and explain that some artists 'paint' movement, or their feelings or distort the objects they see, that's why sometimes we don't understand what's on the canvass." Rinnah has made it her life's work to dedicate most of her projects to young children. She believes teaching cultural appreciation to the young can revive lost love for our country. Becoming a proud Filipino race courtesy of the kids of today is her dream.

It's not all work and no play for Rinnah, though, even if sometimes she has to juggle her day job with her other "job"-modeling, where it can get hectic and crazy. Sometimes, she has to go straight to presentations and client meetings after two straight days of commercial shooting. But she's not complaining. She believes she's lucky she can "have it her way pursuing her interests and life's loves." Rinnah trusts that indulging in her passions-educational and cultural advocacies, fashion, traveling, spending time with her basset hound Maxie and eating Chicken Tenders from Burger King with her family, is what preserves her fun and go-getter attitude in life.

The Ultimate Buffet

NEW SPECIALTIES! CLASSIC FAVORITES!

SAISAKI
ROBATAYAKI
JAPANESE BARBECUE FESTIVAL



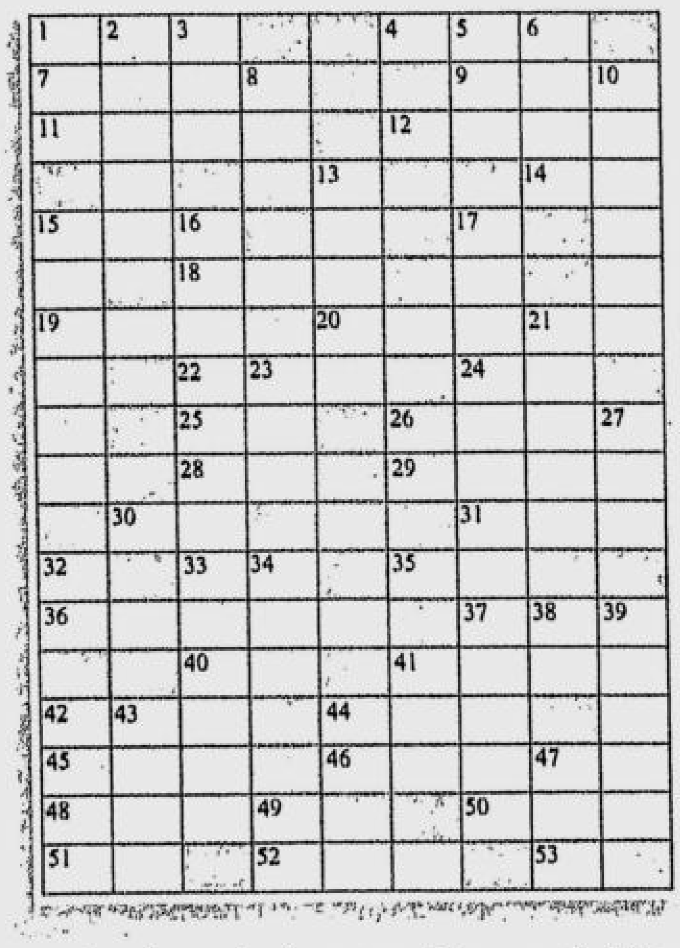
DADS APHRODISIACS

THE ULTIMATE 3-IN-1 BUFFET INCLUDES SAISAKI & KAMAYAN BUFFETS!

Padre Faura Tel. 528-1723 / 528-1724 • Alabang Town Center Tel. 807-5825
SM Megamall Dads/Kamayan Tel. 636-3785 Saisaki Tel. 633-1758
Glorietta 3 Tel. 892-8898 • EDSA Tel. 705-1807 / 705-1809
West Avenue Tel. 413-6359 to 60 / 372-8845

Happy Mother's Day!

MOM
Queen of Hearts



ACROSS
1. Filipino mom
4. Abel's mom
7. Virgin ____
9.___ Maria
11. Movie about picnic insects
12. Spanish Mrs.
14. Tourist trophy abbv.
15. Fitness center
18. Mineral source
19. Electrical unit
20. Go in
22. Males
24. Interjection
25. Self
26. Jose P. Rizal
28. Each (abbr)
29. Poetry, painting etc.
30. Medical letters
31. Interjections
33. Engineering course
35. Preposition
36. Blood pumper
37. In favor of
40. Radium
41. Onionlike veggie
42. Female deer
44. Veggie in a pod
45. Paid notices
46. Female horses
48. Tiny and dusty
50. Mauna ____
51. The word "in" in Spanish
52. Mother's month
53. C___ news network

DOWN.
1. Pampangueño's mom
2. Filipino mom
3. ___ deco
5. Abbr. Of variant
6. Expanded Value Added Tax
8. Alphabet ending
10. Biblical queen
13. ______ of hearts
15. G in GMA
16. Joan Crawford's bio
17. Pearl source
21. Mother ______
23. Norse myth
26. Interjection
27. Spy org.
32. Interjection
34. Period
38. Musical note
39. Japanese mom
41. Meadow
42. British title
43. Norse god
44. Afternoon
47. Long period
49. Printer's measure

Complete the puzzle. Present to claim your double treat on Mother's Day, Sunday, May 14, 2006!

Mom, queen of hearts at Kamayan, Saisaki and Dads

MAY IS THE MONTH OF SUMMER showers, fiestas, and santacruzans. That can only mean non-stop revelries and gut-busting party fare. Around the world, the grandest Maytime celebration of all is Mother's Day. At Kamayan, the grandest fiesta buffet awaits the world's most beloved woman, the grand dame of our lives, the queen of our hearts - Mom. The Kamayan Fiesta Buffet, aside from showcasing the festive dishes of the Filipino fiestas, is a culinary accolade to the genius of Filipino mothers in the realm of the kitchen. Much of the time honored fiesta dishes were concoction of our mothers' mothers and their mothers' mothers. Our mothers leave us with many treasured memories, but the one memory that persists where others fade is that of Mom's cooking. This Mother's Day, mom's festive cooking takes center stage. Meat lovers are sure to try our premium beef dishes, Sinigang na Karne sa Gabi and Kalderetang Baka. The prize catch of the Philippine seas goes into our Escabecheng Isda sa Dilaw and Hito a la Pobre. A twist on a favorite classic, Tinutong Manok is chicken cooked in rich coco milk with grated papaya and peppers. For the centerpiece, the legendary Kamayan Lechon De Leche, a feast truly fit for royalty.

It's a heat wave of applause and appreciation for Mom at the Saisaki Buffet as we fire up the grill and celebrate the traditional Japanese culinary art of Yakimono. The Saisaki Robatayaki Festival brings on the barbecue fever, Saisaki style! Robatayaki refers to a type of traditional Japanese restaurant in which seafood and vegetables are cooked over an open charcoal grill. Robatayaki takes its name from the Japanese words "robata" and "yaki". In the olden days, an open fireplace or "robata" in the middle of an old Japanese house was the center of activity for cooking, eating, socializing, and simply keeping warm. Yaki means "grilled". While Saisaki goes Robatayaki, you can all enjoy flame-broiled fresh meat, veggies, and seafood enhanced with an array of delectable Japanese sauces and spices.

It's a Love Fest this summer as Dads Ultimate Buffet warms hearts and ignites affection with Dads Aphrodisiacs Infusion Food Festival featuring herbs, spices, fruits and other delightful edibles noted for their potent medicinal and energy-giving properties. Appetizers to tempt you include King Mackerel in Venus Caperberry Sauce. Caperberry, a love fruit in ancient times means provocateur of desire. Fiery main courses include Osso Bucco con Tomato. To the French, tomato is "pomme d'amour" or love apple. Duck Al'orange, spiced with cloves which Indonesians attribute with growth and strength properties. As a sweet finale, nothing does it better than Capirotoda, Mexican bread pudding with chocolate sauce. It's a full-blown love feast for Mom from the first to the last bite at this buffet!

Dads' Ultimate Buffet is the most value for money buffet selection for it also offers Kamayan and Saisaki buffets for only P515 and at P415 during promo days. For reservations and inquiries, call 532-3004 or 531-7292.

Kamayan

Saisaki

DADS APHRODISIACS
Dads

May I have a word with you *Mom?*

By Manchu Layague

MOM, FROM THE VERY FIRST TIME OUR eyes met, I realized that I am indeed lucky.

I was only a few months old when I was given up for adoption. I don't blame my parents for what happened, the choice was not theirs to make. Just like the union of my biological father and mother brought me into this world, it was the union of circumstance and fate, which brought me to you mom.

How did I know I was lucky when I first met you? Like I said, our eyes met, and that was it. You can tell everything from the eyes. Sincerity, truth, beauty and kindness, all these and more can be seen from the eyes as clear as daylight that passes through it. And these things I saw in your eyes, mom, as you first carried me and looked at my bewildered face.

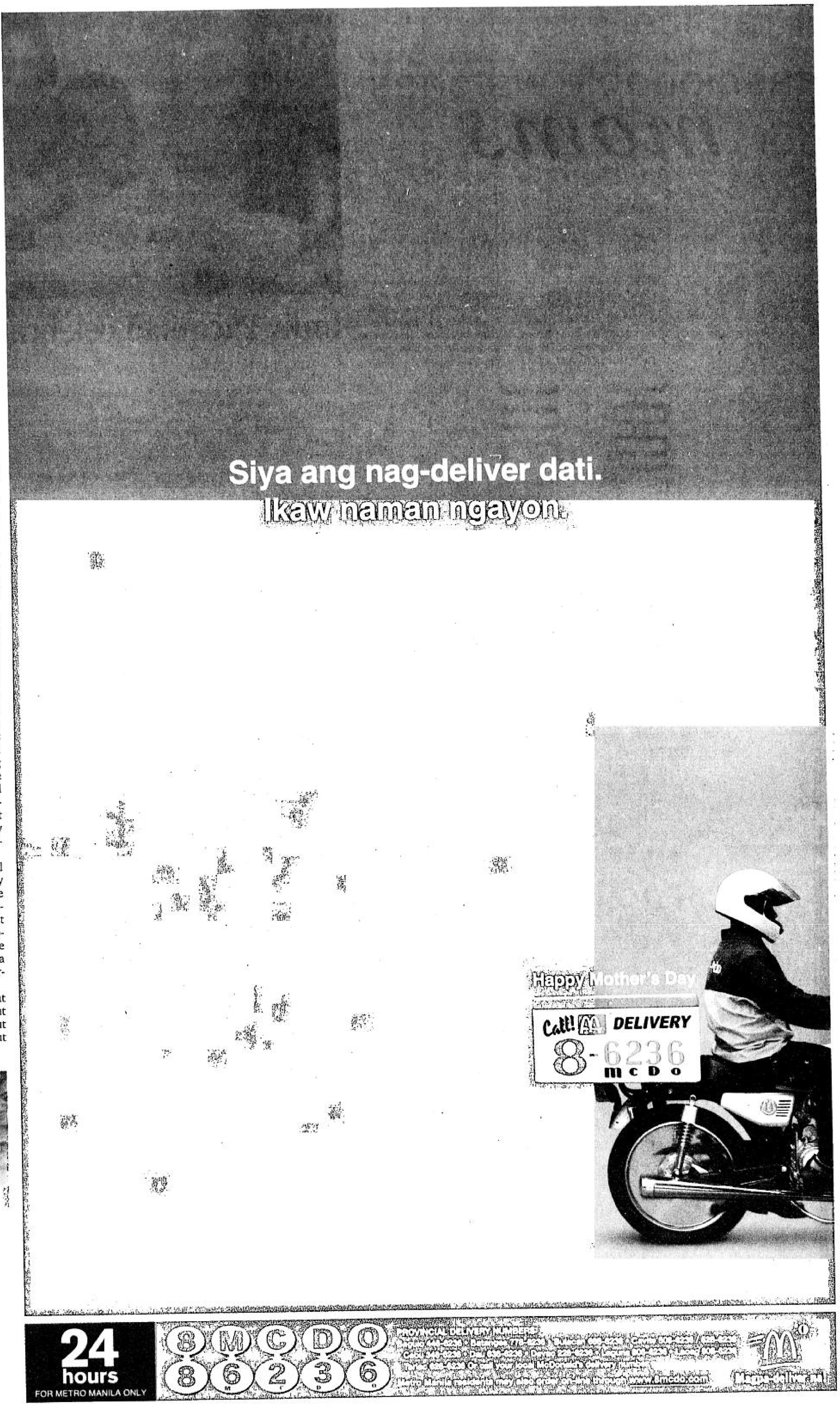
As I grew up, I came to realize that I was denied the power of language. But that did not pose as a hindrance to you to recognize my needs. Though the words I speak are all gibberish to you, you always seem to know when I am hungry, thirsty, need to do number 1 or 2, or just want a comforting hug. You understand me unconditionally even though I may not be in the condition to understand you.

I may be stubborn at times, but my stubbornness can never outweigh the patience you have for me. And it is not only your patience that is limitless. Your selflessness is unfathomable as the ocean is deep. Your concern for money is as equal to my knowledge of it (which is nil) when it comes to my well-being and health. You always bought me my favorite treat even though it was quite expensive, and showered me with things others might say are unreasonable spending on me. And they are right, because for you spending on me needs no reason, thus unreasonable spending indeed. And remember when I fell badly ill and you had to confine me at the hospital? Just to see me recover, you spent most of your two-week paycheck. That wasn't easy considering that you had to risk being penniless or peso-less until your next paycheck.

Some people say that I may not be the ideal son for you. But you proved them wrong by being the ideal mother for me. And for those who decide to adopt, either by choice or necessity, don't listen to those who tell you that adopting someone like me is not the best option. Remember that you adopted, not for the reason that you wanted to have a son or a daughter, but because you wanted to be a parent, first and foremost.

Mama Gina, words cannot express what you mean to me, after all I cannot speak. But if God grants me the chance to utter only but one word, I need not say anything else but "thanks".

A VERY content Manchu



Siya ang nag-deliver dati.
Ikaw naman ngayon.

Happy Mother's Day

Call! DELIVERY
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24 hours
FOR METRO MANILA ONLY

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PROVINCIAL DELIVERY NUMBERS:

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Miles away from Mom?
This Mother's Day, surprise her with a SUN IDD Call.

10¢* /min

P100

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Call abroad for less than a local call.
A Permanent Service to all Sun subscribers. For postpaid, enroll through Sun Shops or call 200.
* Versus local Sun calls to other networks. *Rates in US($) dollars.

SUN CELLULAR
Everything Important is Under the Sun

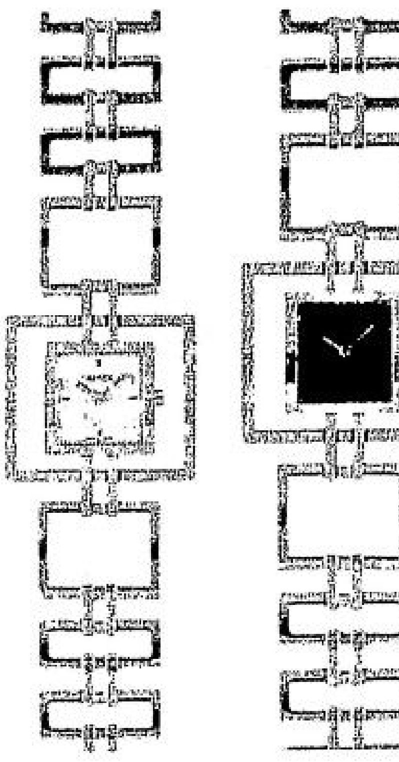
Practical, fashionable watches for moms

SHE IS THE EPITOME OF A super mom - a hands-on homemaker who is capable of keeping a healthy balance between family and work. But she has failed to treat herself to little indulgences.

Wouldn't it be good if she reclaims her youthful charm by being fashionable? Mother's Day presents the perfect opportunity for you to make her look stylish again.

Watches make good gifts as they pass mom's basic requirements: stylish but practical and visually pleasant but functional. The watch of your choice should make her stand out and make the hidden fashionista inside her come out. Buying her a watch that looks like everyone else's defeats the purpose of getting her something special for this occasion.

Time Depot is a haven for people searching for extensive watch collections. Watches offered here are ideal for moms because they are classy but can keep up with her busy lifestyle. Alfex watches are top choices for fashionable moms because they exude feminine sophistication. What about a watch in polished, stainless steel casing and scratch-proof, sapphire crystal face? Indeed, something that can stand out in the boardroom and be tough enough for domestic chores. These watches' designs are so innovative and unique that they do not look like any other watch in the market. Alfex watches epitomize simple elegance sans excessive details that merely confuse. There are also products that can be mistaken as accessories but are in fact functional watches, perfect for use as trendy accessories and timekeeping devices. To complete the impressive package, Alfex watches are high-quality timepieces, so you are assured that it will be with your mom for a long while.



A great woman deserves nothing less than an outstanding gift. Get her the gift she deserves by dropping by at any Time Depot stores located in Rockwell (Makati); Robinsons Place (Manila); Shangri-La Plaza Mall (Mandaluyong City); Festival Supermall (Alabang, Muntinlupa); Eastwood Citywalk2 (Libis, Quezon City); and SM branches in North Edsa Annex, Fairview and Pampanga.

Jinky Pacquiao celebrates Motherhood

ALMOST EIGHT YEARS AFTER SETTLING DOWN, JINKY Amora-Pacquiao is now living her dreams. Most of her time now is spent with her family in their General Santos residence. Family is now composed of her world-class boxer husband and their two boys - Emmanuel Jr., five years old, Michael Stephen, three years old and a baby on the way. After she gave birth, there was nothing she could see herself doing other than being a wife and a mother. Now, let's find out how she manages her life as a product endorser, wife of Manny Pacquiao and as a mom.

Q: How do you differentiate your life now being a celebrity as to before being just an ordinary person?

Jinky: Malaki talaga ang pinagbago. Ngayon, mas madalas kaming magbyahe at sobrang busy ang schedule namin. And ngayong mas busy kami, mas lalo pa naming pinapahalagahan ang time namin sa isa't-isa kasi bibihira nalang kami magkakasama nila Manny at ng mga bata. Kaya super happy kami ng I-offer ang McDonald's commercial sa amin. Alam naming mage-enjoy kami gawin ito kasi bukod sa favorite namin ang McDo, kasama namin ang mga bata.

Q: Paano mo maidi-describe ang sarili mo bilang mommy?

Jinky: Ako ang disciplinarian sa bahay. Talagang I make it a point na pinagsasabihan ko ang mga bata kung may nagawa silang mali. At sa mga panahong nasa training si Manny, hindi maiiwasang tumayo ako bilang daddy at *mommy ng mga bata.*

Q: What advice can you give sa mga busy moms na tulad mo?

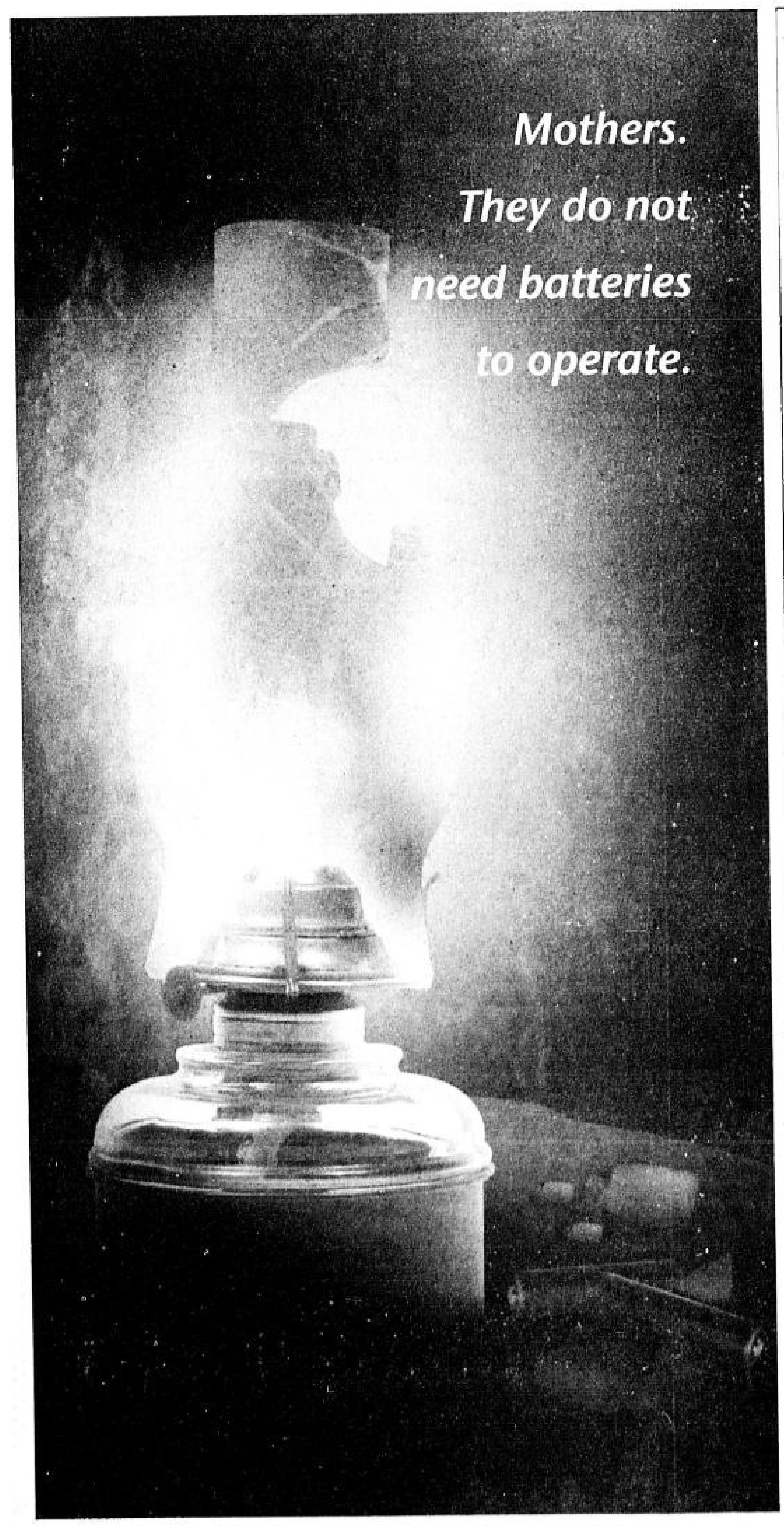
Jinky: Well, kahit gaano kayo ka-busy, lagi nyong ipaparamdam sa kanila na mahal nyo sila at samahan nyo sila sa mga bagay na hilig nilang gawin gaya ng pagpunta sa McDo, panunuod ng tv at paglalaro. At syempre, dapat lagi natin silang yakapin at halikan para ma-feel nila na talagang importante at mahal natin sila...Habang maliliit pa sila, gawin natin ito kasi for sure, paglaki nila, ayaw na nilang magpa-kiss at magpa-hug. Mahihiya na ang mga 'yan.

Q: Mother's Day ngayon. How do you plan to celebrate it?

Jinky: Lalabas kami...Ipapasyal ang mga bata. Masaya talaga ako sa mga ganitong okasyon kasi kumpleto ang pamilya. Nandun yung pagkakataon na nakakapagkwentuhan kami at nakakapagkulitan. For me, enough na yung magkakasama kami sa araw na ito.

While Jinky Pacquiao undoubtedly derives much joy from her kids, she also recognizes the challenge in bringing them up to be good citizens, responsible individuals, God-fearing children, who are capable of being on their own.

But right now, she's just happy to spend her day looking after her two kids and making sure that they get all the love and support they need, and of course, looking forward to the newest member of the family.

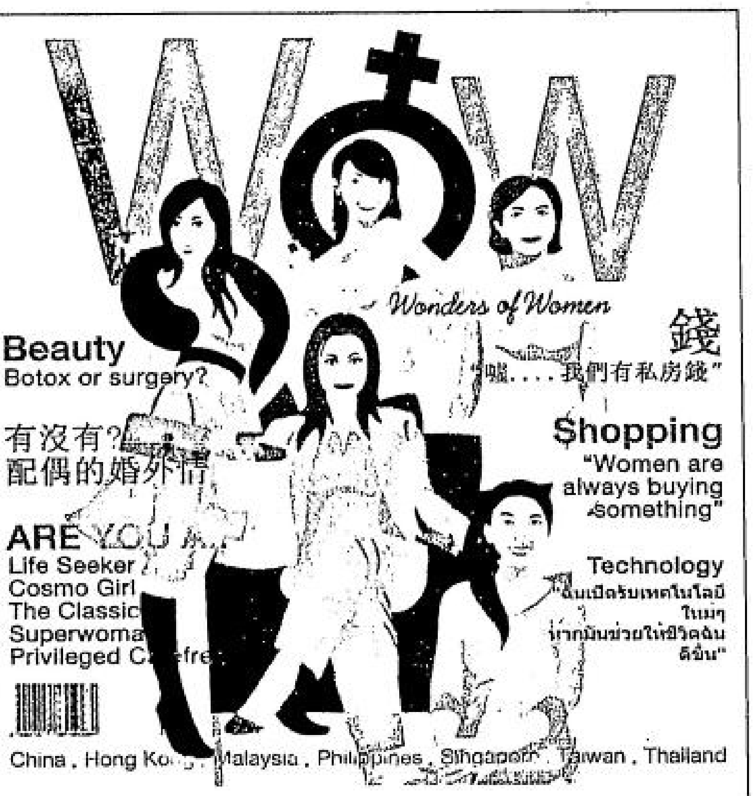


Happy Mothers Day sa mga Ilaw ng Tahanan.

The Philippines has the highest number of women earning more than their spouses. Even if married, they have savings of their own. OMD Philippines uncovered the different types of Filipino women today.

WOW OMD

Contact Antonio R. Samson at arsamson@omd.com.ph or Ador A. Perez at aaperez@omd.com.ph or call OMD Office at 8898663.



Is a Filipino woman today no longer a Maria Clara?

FILIPINO WOMEN IN GENERAL ARE STRONG-WILLED AND INDEPENDENT. They perceive a career as a measure of achievement and self-worth. They decide for themselves. Is this the modern Pinay?

Based on a study by OMD, Filipino women today are modern in terms of their outlook on gender equality but tend still to be conservative particularly in relationships. Their focus remains to be on relationship with their parents and the welfare of their children. This situates today's Pinay as part of the evolving women group in Asia. Most Filipino women perceive themselves to be part of a growing trend --- a sense of liberation in career and society.

The Asian study showed that the WOW women in all 7 markets are clearly more independent, know what they want and are not afraid to speak their minds. They may still hold dear to their traditional values such as filial piety, respect of the family and performing their duties as a good wife and mother but many have breakthrough to see the importance of personal fulfillment and self-actualization through their career and social work.

We are seeing across markets that women are enjoying being a woman and thinking about what they want to get out of their lives. HK, Taiwan and Singapore women are most advanced in terms of their status and position as women in their societies. Chinese women are fast catching up and the evolving groups of women are those from the Philippines together with Thailand and Malaysia.

WOW findings revealed that Philippines have the highest number of women earning more than their spouses (38%), followed by Singapore with 29%. Filipino women agree that even if married, they should have savings of their own. They see that financial independence guarantees one's independence. However, they believe that money does not dictate who wears the pants in the relationship.

Women in the Philippines (together with Malaysia) are most positive about marriage. 62% of Filipino women believe that marriage will last forever compared to a low 8% in Thailand. Likewise, only 19% of Filipino women think that pre-marital sex is acceptable compared to Taiwan, China and Hong Kong's numbers nearing 50%.

When asked which a Filipino woman would prefer - a great body or beautiful face - preferences are more even. For a Pinay, inner beauty counts more than physical appearance. Beauty is equated with confidence and intelligence.

Whilst women on the surface may appear to share common traits and interests in shopping, they are not homogeneous. OMD WOW further reveals more in-depth insights into women by segmenting them to reflect the variations in product consumption and their media and lifestyle preferences.

Out of 10 Filipinas, 5 of them are the modern day Darna - these women aim to balance career and family life. Their career gives them pleasure and a sense of achievement but they feel that it is still the family that matters most; 3 are the classic Maria Clara who embodies a more subdued personality and outlook in life. They tend to be family-focused and live a more laid back life; 1 is a Cosmo girl, who is the go-getter type that tends to live for the moment /enjoys life to the fullest, and they have a modern outlook in life and on relationships; the remaining 1 would either be a Privileged Carefree who belongs to a better income family and is leisure-seeking or a Life Seeker, who is free-spirited and independent.

So, who are you among the 5 clusters? You'd probably have a guess by now.

Bright, Ultralite options for Mom

ITS MOM'S TURN TO HAVE FUN AND RELAX this summer season and the best way to show how much we appreciate our mom's on their special day, especially this summer season - when days are long and nights are longer with parties and endless recreations, is to make sure that she wear a comfortable and stylish pair of footwear to take her through with ease.

The summer get-up will never be complete without the perfect pair of flip-flops or sandals. So before shopping for a new pair of footwear for your mom, let these practical tips from Ultralite Sandals and Slippers guide you in your quest:

Pick the color that matches your skin tone. Glaring colors may be the 'in' thing this summer but don't push it if orange is not really your best color.

Think comfort. You may have fancied that modish pair but if you feel that it would give you blisters with prolonged use, then, look for another pair.

Check out the quality. Don't just look, scrutinize! Make sure that the strap won't easily give in to daily wear and tear.

Go for style and affordability. It's a great catch for consumers if they come across an item that's both classy and budget-friendly, like Ultralite.

Manufactured by Strategy Marketing, Ultralite was made available to budget-conscious Filipinos who go for fashion, comfort, and durability in their choice of sandals and slippers.

GSK's tribute to motherhood

MOTHERS, WITH KIDS IN TOW, flocked to GSK's "Mommy's Day Out!" held recently at the Festival Mall Main Activity Area in Alabang. The event, a pre-mother's day special, was aimed at giving honor to mothers through a wealth of wholesome activities and health tips for the entire family.

The whole-day affair involved fun activities for the kids that included face painting and arts and crafts activities. Mothers got free reinvigorating spa treatment, giving them a rare but well-deserved break from all the hard work at home and at the office.

Dr. Cecilia Maramba, Associate Professor from the Dept. of Pharmacology at the UP College of Medicine, shared her medical expertise to all participating mothers. In her short talk during the afternoon program, Dr. Maramba encouraged mothers to help protect each member of the family including adults, from vaccine-preventable diseases like flu, hepatitis A , typhoid fever, and chicken pox.

Celebrity moms were on hand to share their parenting and nurturing styles and experiences.

A MOM availing herself of the free consultation during the event.

Mother's Day at the SM Supermalls

MAKE IT A SPECIAL date with Mom as the SM Supermalls celebrates Mother's Day on Sunday.

You'll find that special gift for her at our department store and mall stores ... Better still, take her on a shopping spree. Treat her with the rest of the family for lunch or dinner in the many restaurants in our malls.

Or better still join the SM Supermalls' Mother and Daughter Look Alike Contest, which is open to all mothers 25 to 45 years old and daughters 6 to 18 years old. Contestants must submit 4R close up photos and their birth certificates. Three winners will be awarded P20,000 each during the grand finals, which will be held at SM City Fairview Annex.

Celebrate Mother's Day at the SM Supermalls.

Mommy's brag book

THIS MAY, THE SEVEN MOST stress-inducing words in the English language may be "I don't want anything for Mother's Day." In motherspeak, this actually means, "If you really love me, you wouldn't need to ask."

Knowing this, you know that the perfect present must live up to your Mother's impeccable multitasking capabilities and keep up with the fast-paced lifestyle that modern moms are known and admired for.

Traditionally, high-tech gadgets are Dad's domain-but the time has come for mothers to get equally innovative gifts designed to make her life easier.

In the simplest terms, the Treo 650 is a cell phone, or at least, a part of it is. You see, cell phones make calls, smartphones keep you connected and organized. Beyond the obvious mobile connectivity capabilities, the Treo 650 keeps your calendar, photo album, address book and other organizing necessities close at hand.

It's a practical and useful tool ideal for moms on the go. The Treo 650 gives mothers total control over the phone's functionality. Hundreds of applications can be downloaded to help organize shopping lists, meal plans, children's schedules, photos, even work documents. It even has a built-in digital camera for instant kid-shots and family pics ready for viewing anytime. Best of all, all of it is in one sleek, handheld package so it can fit in her purse and carry it with her everywhere.

Moms today are just as likely to be found in front of a computer or on her mobile phone as in the kitchen. Between juggling a career, a family and making sure that she gets enough rest and relaxation to keep her sanity. Mothers deserve something that will keep every facet of her life organized.

The Treo 650 Smartphone is distributed to more than 700 channels of resellers nationwide by Microwarehouse Inc, the leading distributor of networking, mobile and digital lifestyle devices. For product inquiries, call 637-0474, or log on to www.microwarehouse.com.ph. Microwarehouse has branches in Pasig City, Metro Cebu and Davao.

HUGGIES® Diapers
VALUE FOR MOMMY
MORE COMFORT. LESS CHANGES. BIGGER SAVINGS.

A MOTHER'S DAY GIFT TO LAST ALL MONTH LONG

Who says we only have 24 hours to celebrate Mother's Day? For Kimberly-Clark Philippines, makers of HUGGIES® diapers, honouring mothers is an all-year-round affair.

This is the thinking that inspired the creation of the HUGGIES® Value For Mommy program. Under the Value For Mommy program, every HUGGIES® diaper comes with the guarantee of a good buy—quality that's worth every centavo of its price. This is because HUGGIES® diapers, in actual side-by-side comparisons with other brands, have consistently proven to absorb liquid faster and stay dry even after several wettings. As a result, your baby needs less diaper changes per day, making HUGGIES® the more practical choice in the long run. As the Value For Mommy slogan matter-of-factly states: More Comfort, Less Changes, Bigger Savings.

But this is not all. This year, in celebration of Mother's Day, HUGGIES® is giving mothers even more for their money's worth, with the HUGGIES® Value For Mommy VALUE NA, SUWERTE PA promo, which runs for the whole month of May at selected supermarkets nationwide. With this promo, every purchase of HUGGIES® Dry, HUGGIES® Dry Comfort, or HUGGIES® Pull-ups diapers worth P150 entitles you to a range of instant prizes and/or a raffle entry (depending on which supermarket the purchase was made) to win thousands of pesos worth of shopping gift certificates. The instant prizes, which may be won through a variety of fun games at the HUGGIES® booth, range from free HUGGIES® diapers to practical gifts like tote bags, baby towels and bath sponges. Consolation prizes are also given away, so no mommy goes home empty-handed.

Participating supermarkets include: The Landmark; SM Supermarkets (Megamall, Makati, Manila, San Lazaro, Southmall, Fairview, Bacoor, Lucena, Molino, Bicutan, Sucat, Valenzuela, Marilao); and Robinsons (Ermita, Galleria, Starmills, Tutuban, Metropolis, Balibago, Pioneer, Metro East, Novaliches, Imus, Sta. Rosa, Lipa, Cainta, Dasmarinas).

With the Value For Mommy program—plus the VALUE NA, SUWERTE PA promo— HUGGIES® is undoubtedly the most mommy-friendly diaper brand in the market. So if you want to be smart about choosing your baby's diapers, buy HUGGIES® now!

HUGGIES® VALUE FOR MOMMY VALUE NA SUWERTE PA

HUGGIES® Diapers
VALUE FOR MOMMY
MORE COMFORT. LESS CHANGES.
BIGGER SAVINGS.

"Sa Huggies®, laging dry and comfortable si baby even after several hours. Kaya hindi ako madalas magpalit ng diaper niya. Mas nakakatipid kami. Sulit talaga ang Huggies®!"

Mrs. Aileen Joson
Working Mother

HUGGIES® Diapers
VALUE FOR MOMMY
VALUE NA SUWERTE PA

NOW! Get even more value with Huggies® VALUE NA, SUWERTE PA Promo. Buy Huggies® diapers at participating supermarkets and get the chance to win cash and exciting instant prizes.

Per DTI-NCR Permit Nos. 0754 & 0756 Series of 2006

MOTHERS NEED TO KNOW

IPD, the Traitor Disease

WITH JUST A SNEEZE, YOUR BABY CAN BE INfected. From suffering cold-like symptoms at first, she could experience a major heart failure and slip into a coma before you could even tell what's wrong with her. And within 48 hours of the first symptom, your precious little baby can die.

This is the frightening power of Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD) - the deadly disease that attacks and kills about one million children worldwide each year, without warning or mercy. In the Philippines, 1 out of 3 children afflicted with it, died. 78% of them were below 2 years of age.

You would think that a disease as lethal as IPD would be well-known. But sadly, few people are aware of it, and some unfortunate parents learn of it the hard way.

Don't wait until it's too late. Know the enemy and learn how to protect your little one from the deadly IPD.

What is IPD?

The disease is caused by a common bacterium Streptococcus pneumoniae, which can attack different parts of the body. When bacteria invade the lungs, they cause bacterial pneumonia; when bacteria invade the bloodstream, they cause bacteremia; and when they invade the covering of the brain, they cause meningitis. The bacteria may also cause otitis media (middle ear infection) and sinusitis.

Who are at risk?

The bacterium is commonly found in the nose and throat of healthy children and adults and can infect anyone through sneezes and coughs. Though not all individuals exposed to the bacteria will become ill, children below 2 years of age are particularly at risk because of their weak immune system. They are not only IPD's most vulnerable victims, they are also the most frequent carriers of S. pneumoniae. In fact, in one study, 91% of children between 6 and 54 months of age became nasal carriers of the bacterium at least once during a 5-month period. Another risk factor for pneumococcal disease is children's attendance in day care.

Your child, no matter how healthy he may seem, can contract IPD from anyone and virtually anywhere.

Signs and symptoms

The signs and symptoms of invasive pneumococcal disease vary by illness:

- Bacteremia may include high fever associated with other nonspecific signs of illness.
- Meningitis may include fever, severe headache, vomiting, somnolence, combativeness, seizures and stiff neck.
- Pneumonia may include cough, fever, chills and chest pain.

IPD conceals itself with symptoms so common to children that you'll be caught totally off-guard. Other than these, there are no other tell-tale signs that could indicate that your baby has IPD. After these initial symptoms, IPD may involve your child's central nervous system until his whole body shuts down-all in the span of 48 hours. Even if the child survives IPD, he may still suffer from the sequelae of IPD like mental retardation or hearing loss.

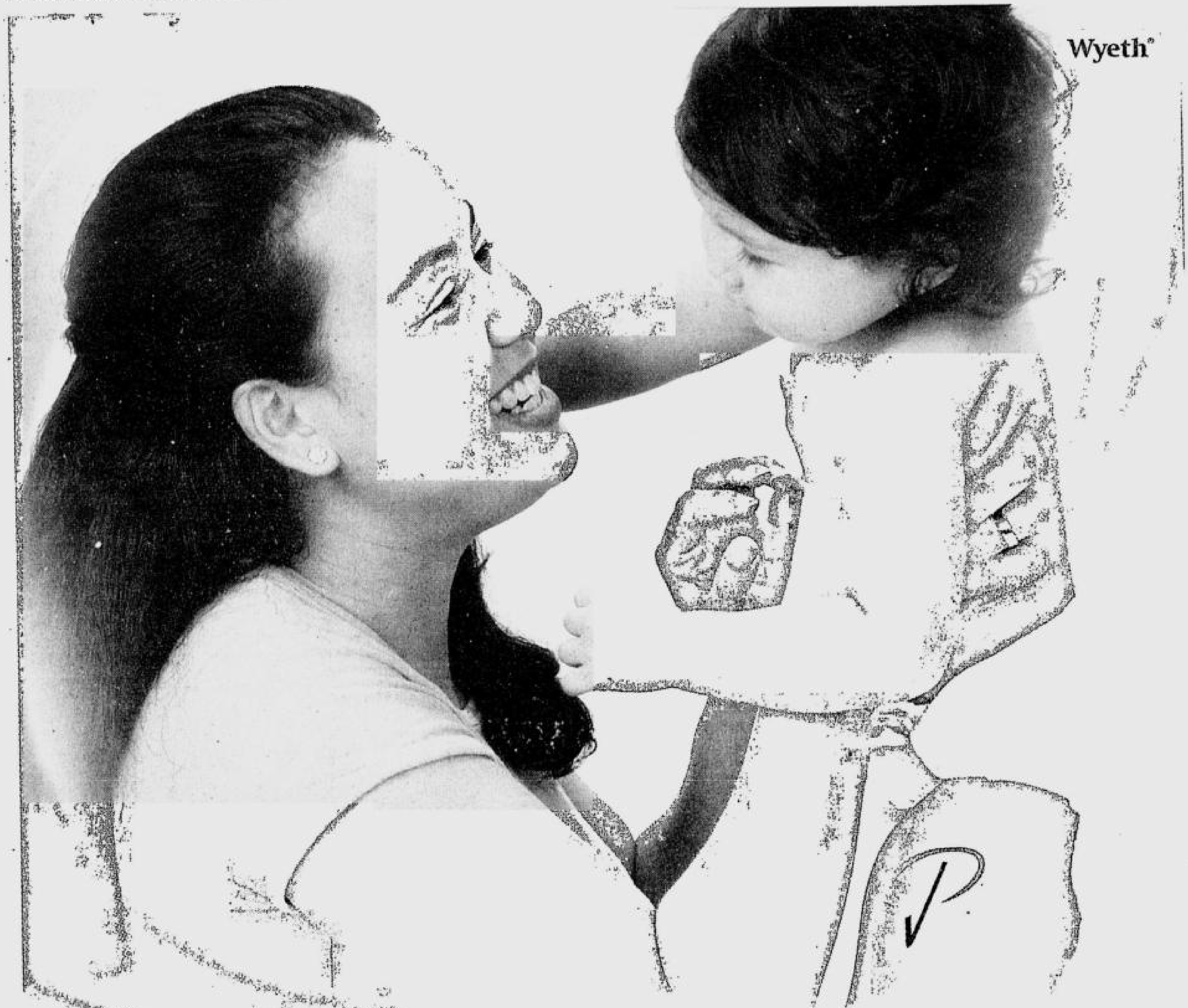
Treatment

Several classes of antibiotics are active against S. pneumoniae. However, there has been an increase in the strains that are resistant to penicillin and other antibiotics, and the prevalence of these strains continues to increase worldwide. There is no known, reliable treatment for IPD, but there is a way to protect your child from it.

Can it be prevented?

Mercifully, IPD can be prevented through vaccination. The new life-saving IPD vaccine is now here in the Philippines. It can protect 6-week old infants up to 9-year old children against the life-threatening IPD. It can also help protect against non-invasive diseases such as acute otitis media, a common cause of illness during the first two years.

Ask your doctor about the IPD vaccine and choose prevention before it's too late.



Wyeth celebrates the mothers who have kept their babies safe from the deadly Invasive Pneumococcal Disease (IPD).
We also encourage more mothers to choose prevention as the best protection for their young ones.

Happy Mother's Day to all!

ipd
Ask your doctor about it.

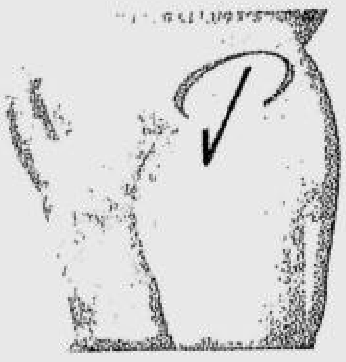
( ) Yes, I want to know more about IPD! Please send me more information.

Name: ________________

Address: ________________

Contact No.: ________________

Kindly cut and fax to 8846780 or send to Pharma Division, Wyeth Philippines, Inc.
2236 Chino Roces Avenue, Makati City 1200



Get S.A.V.E.D.!

Mommy Academy launches campaign on IPD

MOMMY ACADEMY, Your Parenting Partner in cooperation with Wyeth, Philippines, Inc. launches a nationwide awareness campaign on IPD or Invasive Pneumococcal Disease through the S.A.V.E.D. (Secure A Vaccine, help Escape Disease) program.

We are calling on all pregnant women and mothers with kids one year old and below to take this rare opportunity to learn more about this life-threatening disease for FREE! All you have to do is pre-register and take important notice of the following dates at these venues:

May 21, 2006 (Sunday)
Renaissance Makati City Hotel
(formerly New World Hotel)

June 4, 2006 (Sunday)
Holiday Inn, Pampanga

June 10, 2006 (Saturday)
Waterfront Lahug, Cebu

June 17, 2006 (Saturday)
Marco Polo, Davao

This awareness campaign will basically provide information on how to keep your babies safe during the first year of life, and how to protect him from the traitor disease known as IPD. Invasive Pneumococcal Disease can take away your child in just 48 hours. According to Dra. Rose Capeding of the Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (R.I.T.M.), IPD affects both children and the elderly, but infants and toddlers up to two years of age are the most vulnerable victims of this deadly disease. IPD is a serious illness and is life-threatening. Fortunately, you can now protect your child because an IPD vaccine is now available.

IPD can take away your child in just 48 hours

For effective protection against this illness, immunize your baby at an early age.

For pre-registration and inquiries, please call the following contact numbers:

Tel. Nos: 687-5755/687-3829
820-5070/825-7454
Cell Nos: 0918-4940913 (Smart)
0916-4534270 (Globe)
0922-9668673 (Sun)

This collaborative effort is brought to you by Mommy Academy, Your Parenting Partner and Wyeth Philippines, Inc.

Know the Traitor Disease

Ignorance is dangerous, especially with IPD. Knowledge about this dreaded disease is the key to preventing it. So, know the Traitor Disease and save your child's life.

What is IPD?

IPD or Invasive Pneumoccocal Disease is a fatal disease caused by the bacteria *Streptococcus Pneumoniae.* It could take your child within 48 hours. IPD could come in the form of bacteremia, meningitis, bacteremic pneumonia or sepsis. All are equally life-threatening.

Who are susceptible to it?

Children 2 years and below are most likely to contract IPD. In fact, 90% of its victims are below 5 years old, 78% of whom are below 2 years of age. The younger the victim, the more fatal the disease is.

How can my child contract it?

IPD is an airborne disease and is thus contracted by just being near an infected person. A cough or sneeze may infect your child.

What are its symptoms?

The first signs of IPD start out as coughs and colds which then lead to high fever and eventually, to shock. Complications include infection of the intestines and vomiting. In severe cases, your child may fall into a coma and die after 48 hours.

How fatal is it?

More than a million children die of IPD every year. What makes the Traitor Disease so dangerous is that it can remain undetected until it's too late. By the time you realize your child has it, he usually has only 48 hours left to live. If he does survive, he can suffer severe brain damage that can lead to retardation.

Is there a cure?

The only known treatment for IPD is antibiotics, but these do not ensure that your child will survive. In fact, very few survive the complications that result from IPD, even with antibiotics. The only real solution is prevention.

How can it be prevented?

Mercifully, there is a vaccine available to fight this dreaded disease, but it should be administered at an early age to make it more effective. Ask your doctor about it. The earlier you know, the better you can protect your child.

ipd
Invasive pneumococcal disease
Ask your doctor about it.

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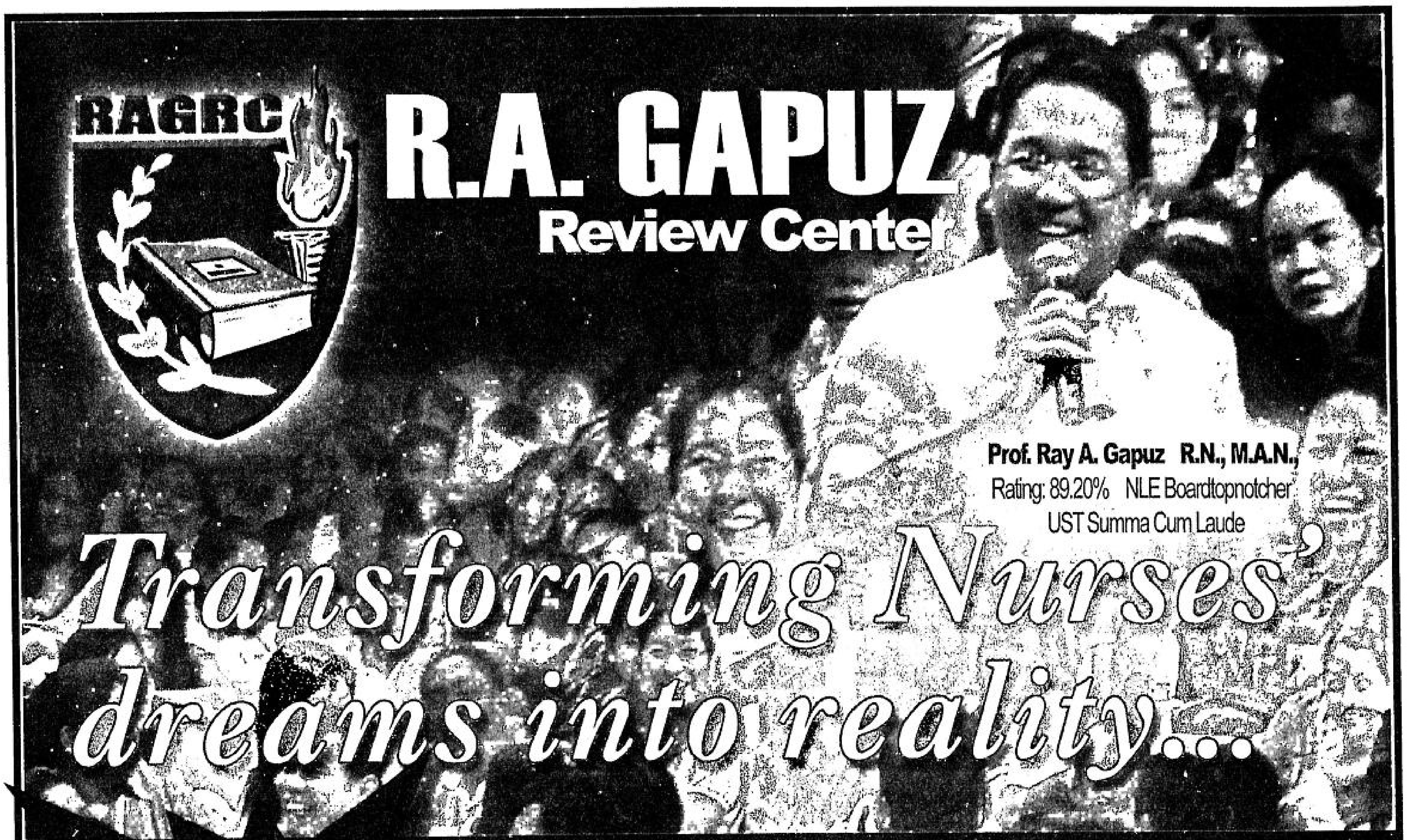
SUNDAY, MAY 14, 2006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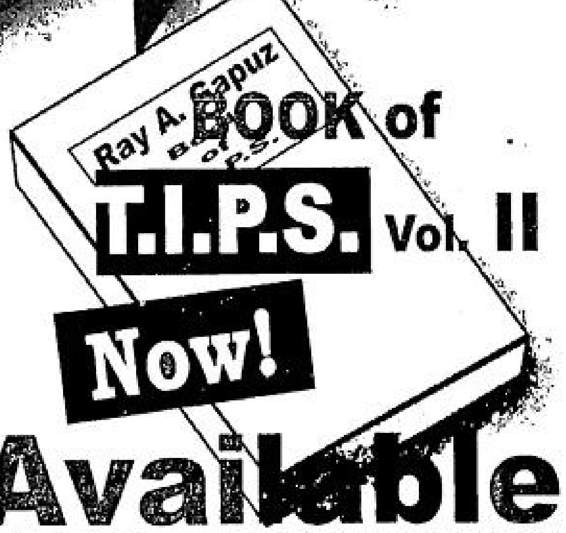

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2006 REVIEW SCHEDULE

LOCAL	**Intensive Final Coaching Review**		
	Manila May 25-31	Davao May 21 - June3	
	Cebu May 15 - June 6		
CGFNS / NCLEX	**Comprehensive Review**		
	Dagupan June 07 - 21	Cebu June 06 - 18	
	Baguio June 08 - 22	Davao June 14 - 24	
	Manila June 12 - 23		
CGFNS	**Intensive Final Coaching**		
	Manila July 03 - 11	Davao June 29 - July 05	
	Cebu June 25 - July 01		
NCLEX	**Intensive Final Coaching**		
	Dagupan & Baguio - July 20 - 24	Cebu Ju ly 15 - 19	
	Manila July 13 - 17	Davao July 25 - 29	
NCLEX (Hong Kong)	**Closed Door Final Coaching**		
	July 22-24		

THE STUDENTS FEEDBACK SAYS IT ALL!

LOCAL-RN

Mabuhay Kau!!! Curative panalo Kau sir 95 Percent itinuro nyo...09178214//5

Imbag nga aldaw m0 SIR!! C Fur Serquina p0 e2, Sir mraming maraming slamat p0 s lahat ng mga TIPS n binigay ny0 s amin. S0brang natutuwa p0 ak0 kc ang bait2 nyo s amin hindi p0 mgiging kAmpante s pAgkuha ng exAms!! Hindi k0 p0 tlga alam kung ppan0 kau psslamatan.. G0d BleSs! - 09152446//

Sir Gud am po. \pat0k p0 CURATIVE. andami lumAbas yung pain, ECT, sexual deviant, mEasles, CARI, Alzheimer, leprosy Schz. Alchism, MR N dementia na natackle natin. – 0917//5165, j0naH –Up-Manila

Gud pm sir!!! IM fFlora B0nd0c 1 of ur scolar n Bagui0.. Sir, I passed d board poll &thnx a lot 4 ur help. Happy Bday p0!!u gud pers9n lyk u deserves ol d best! UU G0d bless...u 09196703//

Sir ray. Tenk-tenk u so much with your help. VERY EFFECTIVE REVIEWER. GOD BLESS and more power! . GENE (091832320//)

CGFNS

Dear Sir Ray, Im so pleased to tell you that I just got my CGFNS result and I passed. I believed GOD used you to open doors for us nurses especially for young single mothers like me who doesn't have the luxury of time. God bless you. You don't' know how much help you've become in our lives. Lovely Joy Pascual (eljay@hotmail.com)

Thanks for your INTENSIVE FINAL COACHING last March 1-8, 2005. I passed the March CGFNS exam. I chose your review center because its INTEGRITY, INNOVATIVE and COMPETENT instructors. Bongga ka tlaga sir! The mega, ultima maxilla ultra CGFNS and NCLEX reviewer of the Philippines and the universe ..S.S. Consuelo

Hi Sir ray, wnt 2 thnk u s0 much 4 everything u th0ugh us d ryt attitude, f0cus in FAITH n GOD, I made 8 thru, finally RN N aq. Thnx agEn, Godbless always u Ms. Len Caguioa . . 092831989//

U hab prepared us well.....Thnx tlga!!!!!! We really appreciated everything you taught us,..... 0917782149//

Good Morning sir, my wife & I pass d board exam. Marami din po pumasa s mga in house natin. MARAMING SLAMAT PO .. 091782149//

Hi Sir!!! I'm Princess Urdas, Pres. of FEU 4th yr. In behalf of our batch I wud lyk 2 say thnk U. Wid out U, we cudn't have answered d psych question's. U'r our HERO. U'R my IDOL!!!....092//726389

Gud pm Sir. Thnx 4 d concepts we hab learned from you. Ang LAKI ng 2long ninyo. 09//214995

NCLEX

Sir Ray, if there is word better than "THANKS" I would have used it now to express my heartfelt gratitude. Maraming salamat po. As you predicted in the analysis. The computer will shutdown at 75...IT DID. Thanks to GOD and to you and your staff. For those who will take the NCLEX, entrust yourselves to God and to Mr. Gapuz... Ms. Chona Lopez, R.N.

Hi Sir Ray! I'd Like 2let u know dat I passed Georgia b0ard exam, taken May 17, 2005 at SAIPAN. d Computer shutdown at 75. SOSYAL!!!!!!!!! Thnx 2 u. I attended in final c0aching. U're great!!! ShEila Hernandez. Batangas 63920//26603

Sir Ray, I passed d NCLEX last5/25. Dami delegation & triage. Benefited a lot from U'r TIPS esp. 7 hAbits. Thnx so much!!! I'm n0w 1 of the th0usands of Pin0y nurses hu wer blessed thru U'r dEdication, knowledge and optimism. God Bless U and mAy you c0ntinue t0 guide our nurses on d way 2 SuCCess. Melissa D.

Hi sir Ray, you really changed my life. I wanna thank you fro everything... at first I passed my local nursing licensure exam (June 2004) and now I passed my March 2005 CGFNS exam. I thank God for giving such a wonderful and extra ordinary person like u. With Ray Gapuz you first have to relax and listen with all your heart and mind then let Sir Gapuz show you how you become a real winner....Lany, Alanlum_0082003@yahoo.com

48 hours after i sat for the NCLEX, I learned that I passed and just yesterday midnight i came to know that i also passed CGFNS.The feeling is amazing. i would like to convey my sincerest appreciation to Sir Ray and the Staff Shukran Jazilan wa ya atik afia (jon alteza@yahoo com

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Interested Buyers may call the following telephone nbrs. 527-82-11 to 19 locals 144,145 and look for Joy or Myla. You may also inquire from our Offices in the above mentioned areas.

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Any transaction entered into with **Ms. MA. LUISA P. FRAGANTE** will not be honored by PARAMOUNT LIFE & GENERAL INSURANCE CORPORATION after the said date.

(PDI–May 14, 2006)

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Pasay near Pasay City Hall

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

NOEL C. TARUN

#2609 A.P. Guevara St. Corner Tecson,
Sta. Cruz, Manila

Warrant of arrest was issued against **Noel C. Tarun** whose picture appears above with offense of Qualified Theft Through Falsification of Commercial Documents under Criminal Case No. MC05-8946-47 RTC Branch 211, Mandaluyong City.

If you have any information on his whereabouts leading to his arrest, please call Tel. No. 844-0521 c/o MARTINEZ/PEREZ LAW OFFICE or Mobile No. 9177916071.

(PDI–May 14, 2006)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that issued official receipts of **Kimberly Clark Philippines, Inc.** with series **711051 to 711081** as well as the unissued OR with series **711082 to 711100** were lost last Saturday, May 6, 2006. The last OR issued was dated May 03, 2006.

Any transactions entered in these unissued receipts from and after the date mentioned above shall not be honored and shall not be for the responsibility of Kimberly Clark Philippines, Inc.

(PDI – May 14, 2006)

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GROWTH WITH EQUITY IN MINDANAO (GEM) PROGRAM
A Project of the United States Agency for International Development
The General Contractor is THE LOUIS BERGER GROUP, INC.
Tel: (6382) 225-1569 • Fax: (6382) 225-1479
USAID Contract No: 492-C-00-02-00018-00

URGENT REQUIREMENT

PRE-SOLICITATION NOTICE:

Engineering Services for Design and Construction of Prefabricated Steel Bridges at Various Locations throughout the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM) and other Conflict- Affected Areas in Mindanao (CAAM) under the USAID-Financed Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program

The Louis Berger Group, Inc., (LBGI) a U. S. firm contracted by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to implement the Growth with Equity in Mindanao (GEM) Program, is inviting interested and qualified U.S. and local companies/contractors/suppliers to submit their expressions of interest and qualifications statements for possible invitation to participate in the competitive contracting for the Design and Construction of Prefabricated Steel Bridges. These bridges which are similar or equivalent to "U.S. Bailey Bridges," approximately twelve in number, and consisting of single span, single lane bridges, with HS20 loading and appropriate seismic design, will likely be bundled into project packages in groups of three to four bridges per package, covering differing geographic areas of Mindanao. The bridges are to be constructed at various locations throughout the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao(ARMM) and other Conflict-Affected Areas in Mindanao (CAAM). Each project package will include not only the design and construction of each of the prefabricated bridge, but will also include the requisite topographical survey to design and construct each of the bridge and road approaches, and the geotechnical investigations necessary to design each set of the bridge abutments. Other design and construction items include the development of plan and profile, embankment, aggregate base and surface courses.

Interested firms responding to this notice will be sent copies of the solicitation document which provides the details of this procurement action. As the contracting agency, LBGI is contemplating making contract award based on a two-step sealed bidding process. Step One consists of the request for, submission, evaluation, and (if necessary) discussion of technical proposals. No pricing is involved, the objective is only to determine the acceptability of the services offered. Submissions will be evaluated based on a criteria which takes into account, among others, the firms' demonstrated capabilities, technical and general expertise (including adherence to U.S. "Bailey bridge" or its U.S. commercial equivalent), quality assurance protocols, previous experience in similar design, and in the construction of prefabricated bridge projects in the Philippines and in the ARMM Region. A list of present and past similar contracts should be provided, as well as arrangements with joint ventures and/or subcontractors (if applicable), and staff qualifications and experience. Step Two involves the submission of sealed bids by those who submitted acceptable technical proposals in Step One. Bids are evaluated and award is made in accordance with Part 14 of the U.S. Federal Acquisition Regulations. Requests for copies of the solicitation document, any other questions, or requests for additional information should be directed to the GEM Program Contracts Office, Growth with Equity in Mindanao Program, via Fax No.: (082) 225-1454. A pre-proposal submission conference is tentatively scheduled on Monday at May 22, 2006 in Makati City at ten o'clock in the morning. Firms who wish to participate in this procurement activity are expected to send representatives to this meeting. For Step One of this procurement action, interested firms should submit three copies of their proposals which must be received no later than 3:00PM on Monday, June 15, 2006 at the following address: The Deputy Chief of Party for Contracts and Administration, GEM Program, 2nd Floor, 1 Ladislawa Bldg., Ladislawa Ave., Buhangin, Davao City 8000, Philippines. The GEM Program is financed by USAID and implemented in partnership with the Mindanao Economic Development Council.

Republic of the Philippines
BATANGAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Rizal St., Batangas City

EXTENDED NOTICE OF SEARCH AND CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

The Board of Regents of the Batangas State University formally and publicly announces that the Search for Presidency of the **BATANGAS STATE UNIVERSITY** is now open. Interested applicants and/or nominees are invited to send their formal applications to the Search Committee chaired by Mr. Richard Albert I. Osmond.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

- Must be a Filipino citizen;
- Preferably a holder of a doctoral degree;
- Preferably 35 to 60 years old;
- Must be morally upright;
- With Recognized leadership in his/her profession in the academe or industry;
- With at least five (5) years of managerial/administrative experience.

In addition to the above-mentioned qualifications, the applicants should make a full disclosure of all administrative, criminal, and/or civil cases filed in any court in the Philippines against him/her and are required to submit the following clearances:

- National Bureau of Investigation
- Sandiganbayan
- Civil Service Commission and/or Certificate of No Pending Administrative Case issued by the Administrative Officer of present employer
- Previous Employer
- Not convicted in any administrative or criminal cases

Formal application addressed to the Search Committee should be accompanied with:

- Detailed CV and certified supporting documents
- Proposed vision, Mission and Thrusts of the University
- Results of neuro-psychiatric examination conducted by any government physician or any accredited health institution
- Medical Certificate from a government physician

Interested applicants and/or those nominated for the position are requested to submit four (4) sets of their formal application and certified supporting documents on or before May 31, 2006 to:

MR. MARLON N. FABRICANTE
Executive Assistant IV
Office of Commissioner S. M. OCAMPO, JR.
CHED, 5/F, DAP Bldg., San Miguel Ave.,
Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Tel. No. (02) 636-1690
Telefax No. (02) 636-1693

OR

BATANGAS STATE UNIVERSITY
c/o MS. ROSE MAGSINO
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(PDI – May 13, 14 & 15, 2006)

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PALs Cebu batch 2 is slated on May 26, 27 and 28, 2006 at the Grand Hotel while in Manila is on May 19, 20 and 21 in Makati. Interested parties in Manila may inquire at (02) 8405958 and (02) 840-5960, or text 0917-5555639 and in Cebu (032) 2722700 or 0922-9484058. You may also email them at powerspeak@gmail.com or log on to www.powerspeakph.com.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late Severino S. Cruz & Virginia Sibayan Cruz was extrajudicially settled by their heirs w/waiver of right per Doc. 141, Page 29, Book XXII, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Donato C. Mangulat of Q.C. (PDI-May 14, 21, 28, 2006)

Notice is given that the estate of the late FRANCISCO SERRA ZULUETA JR has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs before Notary Public Rudyard Arbolado of Makati City as Per Doc No. 372 Page No. 76 Book No 7 Series of 2006
PDI--April 30, May 7 & 14,2006

Notice is given that the estate of the late Felipe Alejandrino was extra-judicially settled by his heirs w/waiver of rights per Doc. 070, Page 15, Book XLII, Series of 2006 & Doc. 046, Page 11, Book XLII, Series of 2006, before Notary Public Isidro Almonteros of Manila (May 14, 21, 28, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late LEONARDO E. CALING has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 067; Page No. 14; Book No. I; series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Rona A. Albalos-Demetria of Pasig City (PDI-May 7, 14, 21, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late WILFREDO L. CARRILLO and HELEN CARRILLO was extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc. No. 208; Page No. 42; Book No. XVI; Series of 2005 by Notary Public Melina O. Tecson of Makati City.
(PDI- May 7, 14 & 21, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MILAGROS G. ESPINOSA was extrajudicially settled with waiver of share by her heirs before Notary Public Jovencio P. Fulgueras of Quezon City per Document No. 43 Page No. 9 Book No. 7 Series of 2006
(PDI-May 14, 21 & 28, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ALEJANDRA M. FLORES consisting of personal property was extrajudicially settled and distributed among her heirs VICENTE M. FLORES, DOMICIANO M. FLORES and JOSE M. FLORES by means of a public document executed on April 23, 2006 and ratified before Atty. ARLENE R. ABELEDA, Notary Public of Makati City as per Doc#10, Page#3, Book #2 Series of 2006.
(PDI-April 30, May 7 & 14, 2006)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE ESTATE OF THE LATE PEDRO R. COLLADO WAS EXTRAJUDICIALLY SETTLED AMONG HIS HEIRS AS PER DOC. NO. 382, PAGE NO. 77, BOOK NO. 11, SERIES OF 2005 OF THE NOTARIAL REGISTRY OF ATTY. JOSE TEODORICO V. MOLINA OF QUEZON CITY (PDI- 5 / 14, 21, 28, 2006)

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NOTICE TO SELL

The following properties are offered for sale:

- 1 parcel of land with an area of 1,090 sqm located at Mission Hills Subd., San Roque, Antipolo City
- 1 parcel of land with an area of 461 sqm located at Forest Hills Subd., San Juan, Antipolo City
- 1 parcel of land with an area of 1,080 sqm located at The Mango Orchard Farm Estate, Palangue Central, Naic, Cavite
- 1 parcel of land with an area of 240 sqm located at Lakewood Subd., Los Baños, Laguna
- 2 parcel of land with an aggregate area of 638 sqm located in Brgy. Plaridel, Santiago City, Isabela
- 1 parcel of land with an area of 614 sqm located in Brgy. Patul, Santiago City, Isabela
- 1 parcel of agricultural land with an area of 1.31 ha. located in Brgy. Burgos, Ramon, Isabela

For those interested to buy, please contact Marivi F. Anderson or David A. Ulep at telephone numbers 631-8101 loc. 7443, 7444; 7446 direct line – 631-9236; mobile: 09189922849; 09189286359

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that
Mr. Victor Emmanuel "Rusty" L. Rastrullo
is no longer connected with Green Cross, Inc.
effective April 12, 2006. All transactions
on said date and onwards will no longer
be honored by the Company.

(PDI–May 14, 2006)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the RCBC Stock Certificate # 626 Preferred C with 10,000 shares under the name of LIWAYWAY HERNANDEZ was lost If no contest received new certificate will be issued.

(PDI – APRIL 30, MAY 7 & 14, 2006)

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Intestate Estate of the late Jacobe Y. Imperial was extrajudicially settled by her heirs per Deed of Extrajudicial Settlement identified as per Doc. No. 76, Page No. 17, Book No. XII, Series of 2006 before Notary Public Atty. Benigno M. Puno of Pasig City (PDI-May 7, 14, 21, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late HERNANDO M. SEVILLA was extrajudicially settled by the heirs as per Doc 404 Page 81 Book II Series 2004 before Notary Public Cecile R. Gonzales-Yumul, Makati City
PDI-May 7, 14 & 21, 2006

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late SEAN JAMES M. VARGAS was extra-judicially settled with waiver as per Doc. No. 41, Page No. 10, Book No. 64, Series of 2006 of Notary Public Lope M. Velasco of Makati City.
(PDI-April 30, May 7 & 14, 2006)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late BENJAMIN F. BALITAAN was extrajudicially settled with waiver as per Doc. No. 189, Page No. 39, Book No. XXIV, Series of 2006 of Notary Public Atty. Angelo G. Medina of Pasig City.
(PDI-May 14, 21 & 28, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that LANDBANK Bonds with Serial Nos. AR-0042612 and AR-0042677 under Pelay, Inc. have been declared lost.
(PDI-April 23, 30, May 7 & 14, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given of the loss of ACR No. E069925 under the name of JOHNNY UMAGUING BATARA. Said documents was lost last April 4, 2006. If no contest contest received new certificate will be issued by the Bureau of Immigration
(PDI-May 7 & 14, 2006)

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FAUSTINO BALTAZAR TOBIA

of Barrio Sibed, Sto. Domingo, Ilocos Sur and of
N. Reyes St., Loyola Heights, Quezon City
born January 1, 1917; died May 11, 2006

He was a loving husband to **Patrocinio Hernando-Tobia** of Laoag City, Ilocos Norte; devoted father to his children, **Atty. Robert H. Tobia** and **Moying (†)**; **Frances Tobia**; **Celia Tobia-Bulan** and **Gen. Enrique**; **Victoria Tobia-Dungo** and **Edwin**; **Caridad Tobia-Tharan** and **Sri**; **Manuel Tobia** and **Josephine**; **Cristina Tobia-Astudillo** and **Atty. Enrico**; **Dr. Mario Tobia** and **Susan**; doting lolo to all his grandchildren, **Erika, Raffy, Nicco** and **Carlo Tobia**; **Waya Quiviger** and **Martin**, and **William Quiviger**; **Laarni Bulan-Talisayon** and **Magi, Lorelei**, and **Moira Bulan-Bunyi** and **Cocoy**; **Mike Dungo** and **Gigi, Marlon Dungo** and **Amy**, and **Melanie Dungo**; **Baguis** and **Lorena Tobia**; **Melissa** and **Michael Astudillo**; and **JT Tobia**; and caring great grandfather to his great grandchildren, **Enzo Bunyi, MJ Dungo, Danilo Talisayon**, and **Zara-Noelle Bunyi.**

He was a member of the old Congress representing the First District of Ilocos Sur; an alumnus of the University of the Philippines (UP) College of Law, Class of 1940; a bar topnotcher; a fiery orator; a law practitioner of the old school. He was a humble beginnings, and persevered in the face of obstacles to become a distinguished and accomplished man.

His remains lie at the Chapel of Santa Maria della Strada Parish, Katipunan Avenue, La Vista, Quezon City. Interment will be on Tuesday, May 16, 2006, at 12 noon at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina City. Funeral mass at the Santa Maria della Strada Chapel will precede to the interment.

We request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of the soul of Papa.

"Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life;
he who believes into Me, even if he should die, shall live,"
John 11:25

ONG NG SUET POON

Passed away peacefully in the Grace of our Lord
on May 12, 2006 at the age of 92.

- Her Loving Children
  Tan Ngo Lia, Samuel Wong & Amy Ong Guido
- Her Loving Sons-in-Law & Daughter-in-Law
  Tan Pek Liam, Patsy Wong & William Guido
- Her Loving Grandchildren
  Daniel Tan, Felix Tan, Ellen Zao, Grace Lee & Hannah Yu
  Jeffrey & Valerie Wong
  Macy & Wilmer Guido

Request family and friends to join them in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at The Heritage Park Chapel 6, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

On May 16, a memorial gospel services will be held at 9:00 in the morning at the Chapel 6. Interment will follow at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.

Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park

"...absent
from
the
body
to
be
present
with
the
Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

In Loving Memory

Celerina Marquez King

January 28, 1923 - May 12, 2006

Teacher, mentor, wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. Celerina grew up in Bagac, Bataan, one of the nine children of Felix and Asuncion Marquez. She attended Balanga High School, where she formed strong friendships that lasted until her death. After World War II, she obtained a teaching degree from Far Eastern University and taught in schools in Bataan, Cavite and Zambales before marrying Filemon King. She gave up teaching to raise five children, but taught her children the power of education in improving lives. To honor her 80th birthday, her children started a scholarship program in her name for incoming high school students in Bataan, and later, through the auspices of Children International, established the Celerina Marquez King Library of Hope in a community center in Quezon City, to be inaugurated on June 16.

She will be missed by her children and their families — Elizabeth, Mead, Alexandra and Veronica; Amelita, Jean and Jeremy; Filemon Ricardo, Cynthia, Philip and Karlo; Bernardine, David and Jeremiah; and Rose Marie; her surviving siblings Juanita, Lourdes and Juanito, her many nieces and nephews, and her friends. Her body will lie in state at Memorial Chapel C of Christ the King Church, Green Meadows Avenue, Libis, Quezon City, May 13, 6:00 p.m., through May 15.

In Loving Memory
on the 4th Death Anniversary of

ARTURO SIDDONS YABUT "TORO"

1962 - 2002

Masses will be offered today, May 14, 2006, at the following churches:

Our Lady of Guadalupe Parish Orense St., Guadalupe Nuevo, Makati City	5:30 AM
Sts. Peter & Paul P. Burgos St., Makati City	6:00 AM
National Shrine of the Sacred Heart San Antonio Village, Makati City	6:00 AM
St. Andrew, The Apostle Parish Bel-Air II, Makati City	6:30 AM
St. Alphonsus Mary De Liguori Chapel Magallanes Village, Makati City	7:00 AM 8:00 AM 6:00 PM 8:00 PM
Manila Memorial Park Yabut Mausoleum, Parañaque City	10:00 AM
Sanctuario De San Antonio Parish Forbes Park, Makati City	12:00 Nn
Sto. Niño De Paz Chapel Greenbelt, Ayala Center, Makati City	12:00 Nn
Nuestra Sra. De Gracia Parish Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City	6:15 PM
St. John Bosco Parish Pasay Road, Makati City	7:00 PM

The family requests relatives and friends to remember him in their prayers.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me will live even when he dies, and no one who lives and believes in me will ever die."
John 11: 25-26

ANTONIO "MATTY" S. CASTAÑOS

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on May 11, 2006 at the age of 62.

His parents: **MELECIO (†), PACITA**; children: **TON-TON, BEE-BOM (†)**; brothers and sisters: **ROBERTO & CELITA, RAFAEL "PAET" & LETTY, ROSARIO "INDAY" & ORLY SALIENTES, BADS & DIWI, JOSEPHINE "NENE" & DANNY GIRON, OSCAR "NONOY" & NORMA** and **ERLINDA "TABBY"**, cousins, nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Saint Alphonsus De Liguori Chapel located at the Magallanes Village, Makati City from 12 to 13 May 2006.

His remains will be cremated on Sunday, 14 May 2006 at 1:00 p.m. at the Holy Trinity Memorial Chapels & Crematorium located along Dr. Arcadio Santos Avenue, Parañaque City, Metro Manila.

Death Notice

Rosario 'Chito' Nidea Wallace

Of Legazpi City and
Adelaide, Australia
* October 22, 1957
+ May 5, 2006

Her cremated remains will be brought home to Legazpi City today, May 14, 2006 by her husband and son. Funeral Mass is on Monday, May 15, 2006 at 2 PM at the Albay Cathedral. Her ashes will be laid to rest in Bicol Memorial Park. The Nidea Family thanks relatives and friends for the prayers, thoughts and support thru Chito's illness.

Romeo Juan Roxas, Sr.

OF MARIES VILLAGE II, ANTIPOLO CITY

Peacefully joined his Creator
on May 11, 2006 at the age of 67.

His bereaved wife **Lourdes B. Roxas**; children **Joey** & **Leng**, **Boyet** & **Aileen**, **Mitz**, **Lory** and grandchildren **Lance**, **Patrick**, **Andrea**, **Alysia**, **Aliah** and **Ralph**.

His body lies in state at the Marian Memorial Chapels, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City.

Interment will be on Tuesday, May 16, 2006 at Heaven's Gate Memorial Park, Antipolo City after the 9 a.m. Mass at the St. John Mary Vianney Parish Church, Marcos Highway, Antipolo City.

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Message of Thanks

We, the family of the late

CARMEN MARIÑO PEREZ

wish to sincerely thank everyone who showed their love and affection for Mameng through their presence, prayers, thoughts and flowers.

In the silence of the days following our deep loss,
we remember a special woman whose love for her family
has comfortingly embraced us throughout our lives.
We were truly blessed with the gift of her presence.

EDELISA ARRIOLA (nee ORTEGA)

Wife, Mother and Grandmother

Passed away on May 11, 2006 after a brief illness.

She is survived by her daughter, **Magdalena Tejada**; son-in-law, **Isabelo Tejada**; granddaughters and grandsons-in-law, **Lisa** and **Jomil Dayaw**, **Cecille** and **Dionel Rafanan**, and **Agnes Tejada**; great grandchildren **Katrina Isabel Dayaw, Judith Nicole Dayaw**, and **Manuel Rafanan**. Her loving husband **Manuel** passed away in 1996.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel A, Christ the King Church, Greenmeadows, QC.

Interment will be on Wednesday, May 17, 2006. Her family asks relatives and friends to lift their arms in prayer for the eternal repose of her soul.

"I am the resurrection and the Life. He who believes in me will live even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."
John 11:25-26

CLASSIFIEDS

DAR issues certificate of finality for Lakeshore conversion

EVEN AS THE HOUSING and Land Use Regulatory Board and Malacañang (Office of the President) issued clearances to the The Lakeshore, the unfounded issue on illegal conversion against The Lakeshore project in Mexico, Pampanga, which was part of the smear campaign of Luisito Hipolito and his counsel, lawyer Nicholas Aquino after their unsuccessful attempt to extort money from Central Country Estate, Inc. has been finally put to rest with the issuance by the Department of Agrarian Reform National Office of a certificate of finality indicating that the land conversion order for The Lakeshore project of Central Country Estate Inc. "has become final and executory" being no appeal or opposition filed involving said order within the prescribed.

The Office of the President, Malacañang, has earlier issued a certificate dated April 4, 2006 indicating that there was "no appeal or motion for reconsideration filed" involving the same conversion order.

PMAP seminars set

THE PERSONNEL MANAGEMENT Association of the Philippines is sponsoring a seminar on Group Dynamics and Teambuilding Techniques which is scheduled on May 18-19. Registration fee is P5,750 for PMAP Members and P7,250 for Non PMAP Member. At the end of this seminar, the participants will be able to identify the most appropriate approaches and methods to achieve their teambuilding objectives. They will be able to facilitate a structured learning experience for teambuilding.

All programs will be held at PMAP Center in Mandaluyong City. For reservations, please contact The Human Resource Management Development Center at telephone numbers 726-1581; 726-1588 or 726-1532; email address: mira.jakosalem@pmap.org.ph or you may visit the website: www.pmap.org.ph

JOB Market
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4-8 years relevant experience in developing applications using VisualStudio.net with a focus on asp.net and SQL Server 2000 or higher

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TECHNICAL SUPPORT SPECIALIST (Urgent Hiring)
Graduate of a computer science or programming-related course (college degree), familiar with basic programming languages (especially SQL and Oracle), knowledgeable in MS Word and Excel and Visual Basics

DIALER ADMINISTRATOR
Familiarity with dialer platform / database admin / scheduling and forecasting concepts / outbound Call Management systems

FACTBOOK WRITER
BA/BS degree in Industrial Engineering, Communications, English, Journalism, Business or 4 years equivalent experience in business operations; minimum 2+ years business or technical writing experience and must have advanced writing, proofreading and verbal communication skills; should have intermediate skill level using Word, Powerpoint, Visio, flowcharting and graphic tools

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- Preferably with four (4) years of extensive experience in telecommunications.
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If interested, please submit your application letter together with your updated curriculum vitae and a copy of your transcript of records on or before May 30, 2006. Address your application to:

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- Coordinating with our Technology department to report and fix bugs and to draft and complete functionality enhancements
- Creating regular and custom usage reports, using WebTrends software
- Liaising with third parties, such as search engines and other websites, to improve our placement in search results and to raise our overall web visibility

The ideal candidate is an enthusiastic team player with strong editorial skills and a technical aptitude. He/she must have the following credentials:
- Bachelor's degree in business, marketing, communications, journalism or English
- Minimum of two years experience managing website content and design
- Minimum of one year experience using WebTrends or similar usage-reporting software
- Intermediate or better knowledge of HTML
- Strong oral and written English - spelling, grammar
- Strong analytical skills and experience
- Excellent organizational and follow-up skills
- Strong attention to detail and accuracy
- Ability to prioritize and work independently with limited supervision
- Proficiency in MS Word, PowerPoint and Excel
- Graphic design skills a plus

Shift hours for this position may vary to accommodate the Firm's time zones.

Qualified applicants may submit their cover letter, resume, 2x2 picture and other credentials to bmgsm.hr@bakernet.com.

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- Must be 21 to 25 years old
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Interested parties should apply personally with their resumé, photo, transcript of record, record certificate and other relevant documents **@ Rafell Realty and Development Corporation, 7th flr. Rm. 715-Royal Plaza Bldg. 648 Remedios St., Malate Manila near LRT, Quirino Station or Call us 301-77-85 & 301-77-87.**

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Please call Terry Ong at 723-4032/33 or 722-0780 to make appointment. Bring cirriculum vitaé and passport photo for preliminary interview.

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Requirements:
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Please submit the following: Letter of Application, Certificate of Internship, Bio-data, 2x2 picture, Diploma Medicine, PRC Board Exam Result, Official Transcript of Records, PRC License, #2 Letter of recommendation.

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SR. AUDITOR
Accounting Graduate, CPA/CIA an advantage, not over 35 years old and computer literate. At least one-year relevant experience in the same capacity

ACCOUNTING CLERK
Male/Female; not over 28 years old; Accounting graduate; willing to work long hours, Computer literate (MS Word,Excel)

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pam.m.gregorio@ph.pwc.com • michelle.s.argarin@ph.pwc.com

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UN-HABITAT

United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi, KENYA. Telephone: (254-2) 621234 Fax: (254-2) 624266/7 (Central Office)
Email: infohabitat@unhabitat.org Website: http://www.unhabitat.org

UN-HABITAT PROGRAMME MANAGER

Vacancy No. 2006/02

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) is looking for an experienced urban management professional to assist the Government of the Philippines, especially the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council, achieve its commitment to the Millennium Development Goals and the UN Development Assistance Framework 2004-2009. The successful candidate will be part of the UN Country Team in the Philippines, working closely with a wide variety of local, national and international partners to implement the Habitat Agenda by:

- Further strengthening the networking and collaborative urban management efforts of the UN-Habitat with and between Government Ministries, key Habitat Agenda partners (including national associations of local authorities, urban NGOs, CBOs and POs) the UNDP, other UN, multi- and bi-lateral agencies in support of urban sector development initiatives.
- Enhancing technical and advisory support to key partners to strengthen their capabilities and self-reliance in the areas of shelter and basic service delivery, local governance, urban development and management, and local economic development at the regional and national advocacy, policy and technical levels;
- Strengthening knowledge management and partner networking through the documentation and dissemination of global, regional and national experiences and model practices;
- Expanding undertakings that ensure that the elements essential for sustainable development (bodies of authoritative knowledge, competent personnel, and effective institutions) are in place with local partners through appropriate capacity building programmes.

The successful candidate will have an appropriate Masters degree or a Bachelor's Degree combined with relevant work experiences, have a strong background in urban planning and management, be able to demonstrate a firm understanding of the Habitat Agenda, the UN-HABITAT global campaigns on Urban Governance and Secure Tenure, as well as the agency's supporting global and inter-regional technical co-operation programmes. S/he will most probably have city/national government experience, although regional research, networking and working with international agencies in the region will be a distinct advantage. S/he must be able to demonstrate urban sector advocacy skills, national and regional networking, policy formulation, project and programme development as well as hands-on management experience and expertise. Proven reporting skills, knowledge of regional "urban good practices", and past UN experience would be an additional advantage.

A one year assignment is offered, renewable (subject to performance and resources) with a net salary in the region of US$2,000 per month, to start as soon as possible. Please review further details and application modalities on the following web-sites: fukuoka.unhabitat.org and UNDP-Manila www.undp.org.ph

Applicants are requested to complete the UN Personal History Form (P.11), available in our website indicating the Vacancy No. and Post Title **on or before 23 May 2006**, and send to:

Human Resources Management Unit
United Nations Development Programme
30th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza
Ayala Avenue cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City

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Job Requirements:

- A member in good standing of the Philippine Bar
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- A hard worker and efficient player

Interested applicants may send their application letter and resumé with recent photo to:

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- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply.
- Three (3) years experience in Secretarial Administration is an advantage
- Must be Computer Literate
- Articulate both in oral & written communication
- Fluency in English Language is a must

Interested applicant may send their resumé in our office at:

Km. 17 West Service Road, Cervantes Compound,
Brgy. Marcelo Green, South Superhighway, Parañaque City
Tel. No. 776-3369 / 776-3347
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We are looking for individuals that have great communication skills, strong work ethics, and are passionate about helping customers. If you are looking for a career and not another Job then this is the company for you!

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Water and Sanitation Program - East Asia and the Pacific
Philippines Country Office Seeks a

Sanitation Consultant

The Water and Sanitation Program (WSP) is an international partnership managed by the World Bank to help poor people gain sustained access to improved water and sanitation services. The Program assists countries build capacity, implement reform policies, strengthen institutions and develop human resources. The Program is funded by bilateral and multilateral donors through World Bank Trust Funds.

The Program for East Asia and the Pacific (WSP-EAP) seeks candidates for the position of a Sanitation Consultant to manage the development and implementation of an effective WSP Philippines program for sanitation and hygiene.

This is a Manila-based full-time local **Extended-Term Consultant (ETC)** assignment, extendable up to 2 years subject to satisfactory performance. The initial engagement is for a period of 1-year. The Consultant will be based in the World Bank Office in Manila, with frequent travels within the Philippines and in the East Asia region to support WSP's inter-regional and global initiatives.

The Consultant will:

1. Prepare, implement and oversee the Philippines component of a 4-year regional program on Sustainable Sanitation for East Asia (SuSEA). SuSEA Philippines aims to increase access of the poor to sanitation by supporting long-term sustainable framework for pro-poor sanitation services. The Program will be managed through a Steering Committee, chaired by the Director for the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control (NCDPC), Department of Health. Other members of the Steering Committee are the Director for the Environmental Management Bureau (EMB) of the Department of Environment and Natural Resource, the Bureau of International Health Cooperation, Department of Health and WSP-EAP.
2. Develop and lead the implementation of the sanitation and hygiene thematic area for WSP Philippines, including the writing of business plans and strategies, coordination with government and other sector stakeholders, mobilization of financing for activities, conducting sector analysis and developing support tools/systems.

The successful candidate will have:

1. A Masters degree in environmental or public health focusing on epidemiology of sanitation-related diseases, municipal environmental or health planning, community- or social development focused on business or marketing of social goods and services, and other relevant degree;
2. Demonstrated understanding and experience in implementing programs that have a strong focus on community participatory approaches, behavior change and community development;
3. At least 8 years experience in program design, implementation and management in demand-responsive sanitation service delivery and hygiene promotion, including substantial experience in program management/supervision and monitoring for outcomes and effectiveness, working with a number of government partners in sector planning, sanitation project implementation, capacity-building, and research;
4. Significant experience in developing Terms of Reference and bidding documents and procuring and negotiating contracts for complex technical assistance projects;
5. Demonstrated capacity to participate in interdisciplinary sanitation and hygiene teams addressing complex issues, particularly those of serving the poor;
6. Experience in and understanding of best practice in sanitation policy and sector development and public and private sanitation service delivery in the Philippines;
7. Excellent verbal and written communication capacity in Filipino and English is essential; and
8. High level of analytical skills.

Candidates should be available to mobilize for this assignment by June 2006. Application letters, including a comprehensive resume with details of work experience, academic records, recent photo, and references (at least three names with full contact details) should be sent by close of business on **29 May 2006**, addressed as:

WSP Philippines – Sanitation Consultant
WSP-EAP Philippines Office, 20th Floor The Taipan Place
F. Ortigas, Jr. Road, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, Metro Manila
Email: lelvas@worldbank.org

Only applications from short-listed candidates will be acknowledged.

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Oxfam Great Britain's Philippine Programme is offering an employment opportunity for

Assistant Public Health Officer

Based in Cotabato City

Have you always wanted a challenge, a defining career move and an exciting opportunity to enrich your experience with an international organization? Then, it is time to chase your dreams and join our dynamic team. If you are a self-motivated and dedicated individual, who shares our values and wants to be part of making a difference in people's lives in the Central Mindanao Region, then go ahead and apply for this role.

The Role

To assist and implement OGB's health promotion program in the Central Mindanao Region.

The Key Responsibilities:

- In the absence of the Public Health Officer, acts as focal point for coordination of Public Health Team and participate in the Cotabato Management Team.
- Carry out general (technical, situational, continuous and needs) assessments in evacuation centers, resettlement and home areas which includes feed backing of assessment results, project planning and beneficiaries selection.
- Commence and facilitate community process i.e. community planning meeting on maintenance of community health facilities and ensuring environmental sanitation.
- In coordination and collaboration with Community leaders and Rural Health Unit, identify, train and develop Community Health Volunteers.
- Working with Community Liaison Officers and Engineer, design and develop Public Health training materials and conduct public health promotion training using participatory learning methods.
- Liaise with grassroots groups and institutions/organizations to get relevant information (i.e. morbidity & mortality, health programmes and activities) and also share relevant approved reports to them.
- Work in close collaboration with other teams, and counterparts on public health, to ensure an integrated approach to the public health needs of the population.
- Monitor programme indicators regularly with emphasis on morbidity and mortality and consistently work in line with the disease surveillance systems in place. This should also include taking relevant demographic and gender data when collecting information.
- Facilitate the distribution of essential hygiene materials, where required and within project designs. Ensure the consistency of the programme implementation to SPHERE standards.
- Assist the Public Health Officer provide technical support to partners on Public Health capacity building, planning, implementation, monitoring and impact assessment/review.
- Ensure that all work is carried out in a way that is sensitive to community needs, cultural perceptions and gender and disability issues
- To collate and produce regular reports of Community Liaison Officer and submit to Public Health Officer in a timely manner.

Key Competencies:

- Good understanding of development work in Mindanao
- Initiative and drive to achieve results
- Ability to work effectively with others
- Adaptable and flexible

The Person

- A suitable qualification in any related discipline e.g public health, community development work with 1 year practical experience in appropriate community managed programmes. Practical experience of hygiene promotion is required.
- Good understanding of the public health needs of poor rural and urban communities and of appropriate ways of tackling them, and must be aware of and sensitive to the particular needs of women in this context.
- Experience in developing appropriate training materials
- Good training skills.
- Knowledge and good understanding of the Central Mindanao context
- Strong representational and diplomacy skills and an ability to relate to people from all backgrounds.
- Willingness to travel, sometimes in remote areas for extended period, to carry out assessments and monitor projects.
- Understanding of gender issues and demonstrable commitment to promote gender equality.
- Computer literacy in Word and Excel.

This is a fixed assignment and the term is until 30 October 2008. Interested applicants should submit application letter and CV to:

The Human Resources and Administrative Officer
OXFAM GREAT BRITAIN
95-A Malumanay Street
Teacher's Village, Diliman, Quezon City 1101
FAX: 927-0499 email: etadeo@oxfam.org.uk

Deadline of application : 22 May 2006

ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CALLED FOR INTERVIEW

Oxfam

Oxfam GB's purpose is to work with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering

Oxfam Great Britain's Philippine Programme is offering an employment opportunity for

Construction Supervisor

Based in Cotabato City

Have you always wanted a challenge, a defining career move and an exciting opportunity to enrich your experience with an international organization? Then, it is time to chase your dreams and join our dynamic team. If you are a self-motivated and dedicated individual, who shares our values and wants to be part of making a difference in people's lives in the Central Mindanao Region, then go ahead and apply for this role.

The Role

To supervise physical improvement and other infrastructure work to improve water and sanitation facilities. Increase the knowledge and skills of community groups, especially the water and sanitation maintenance committees, to improve project sustainability.

The Key Responsibilities:

- In coordination with the Engineers, assess the water and sanitation needs at evacuation centers, relocation centers and home areas, taking into account the needs of the locally affected population
- On the basis of these assessments, to supervise and oversee the construction of latrines, rehabilitation of wells and hand pumps.
- Work with the community liaison officers to carry out assessment in home, barangays, and to produce technical feasibility of construction designs and selection of sites
- To work in close collaboration with other teams and public health counterparts to ensure an integrated approach to people's health needs
- To supervise technicians and construction crews, and to ensure that materials and equipment is stored in a secure location and to ensure safe working practices on site
- To organize the schedule of engineering/construction jobs such as request for construction supplies, mobilization of construction crews and delivery of materials
- To ensure that sustainable systems are set in place for long term operation, and maintenance of all water supplies and sanitation facilities at the evacuation center, home and resettlement areas
- In coordination with Community leaders, RHU-Sanitary Inspector, to organize, train and develop community-based groups in water and sanitation maintenance of the installed facilities
- Working with Community Liaison Officer and Assistant Public Health Officer, design and develop training materials for Water and Sanitation and conduct relevant training
- To ensure that all work is carried out in a way that is sensitive to community needs and gender issues. In particular to promote the full and equal participation of women and men in all aspects of the works
- Ensure that all work is carried out in a way that is sensitive to community needs, cultural perceptions and gender and disability issues
- To collate and produce regular reports of Community Liaison Officer and submit to Public Health Officer in a timely manner

Key Competencies:

- Good understanding of development work in Mindanao
- Initiative and drive to achieve results
- Ability to work effectively with others
- Adaptable and flexible

The Person

The ideal candidate must have:

- A suitable qualification in Civil or Construction Engineering. Ideally some of this experience will have been in an emergency situation. Experience can substitute for qualifications but not vice versa. An understanding of building design and the technical details fo construction
- Relevant teamwork experience and good interpersonal skills required
- Diplomacy and tact, to be able to liaise and negotiate with local government officials, and other agency staff, and with local artisan and community representatives
- An ability and willingness to work alongside local, international staff and evacuees is essential
- Good written and oral communication skills
- Good Health, and the ability and flexibility to work under difficult conditions and often under pressure are essential
- Understanding of gender issues in development and demonstrable commitment to promoting gender equality
- Willingness to travel, sometimes in remote areas for extended periods, to carry our assessments, trainings and monitor projects
- Ability to work as part of a team
- Experience in developing appropriate training material and possession of good training skills
- Diplomacy, tact, negotiation and communication skills

This is a fixed assignment until 30 October 2008. Interested applicants should submit application letter and CV to:

The Human Resources and Administrative Officer
OXFAM GREAT BRITAIN
95-A Malumanay Street
Teacher's Village, Diliman, Quezon City 1101
FAX: 927-0499 email: etadeo@oxfam.org.uk

Deadline of application : 22 May 2006

ONLY SHORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE NOTIFIED FOR INTERVIEW

Are you up for the challenge?

Global Sources (Nasdaq: GSOL) creates and facilitates global trade between buyers and suppliers, by providing the right information, at the right time, in the right format. Our integrated sourcing and marketing solutions enable importers to buy, and exporters to sell, more effectively and profitably.

Our winning team of 1,800 people worldwide is skilled, tech-savvy and thrives in a dynamic, cross-cultural environment. If this sounds like you, then we are currently looking for:

Senior Web Page Developer

You will develop applications and tools for the corporate intranet, as well as implement standards and methodologies for site development projects.

You must have a bachelor's degree in Computer Science/Engineering or a related discipline, with at least 3 years of experience in Web development and exposure to Internet technologies. Proficiency in HTML, CSS, Javascript, Web user interface design, Photoshop; excellent communication, interpersonal and leadership skills; a good eye for detail; and a sound knowledge of business workflows are necessary qualifications. Expertise in PHP, MySQL Apache, UNIX, ASP and other server-side programming is a definite advantage.

A competitive remuneration package and a truly challenging, international, dynamic work environment await the right candidate. Interested parties should send their resume and contact details to any of the following:

Corporate Human Resources
online: career.globalsources.com
e-mail: gshr@globalsources.com
(indicate job position at subject heading)
fax: (632) 892-4087
post: P.O. Box 4597, MCPO, Makati City

global sources
www.globalsources.com

WE ARE IN NEED OF THE FOLLOWING POSITIONS:

* DRIVER

- ➢ Graduate of Automotive Technology Course
- ➢ Familiar in Metro Manila Routes and nearby provinces
- ➢ Male

* ACCOUNTING CLERK

- ➢ Graduate of Accounting course
- ➢ Must be honest
- ➢ Female

* SALES COORDINATOR

- ➢ Graduate of 4-year course
- ➢ Male or Female

* SALES REPRESENTATIVE

- ➢ Graduate in 4-year course
- ➢ Minimum of two years in Industrial Products
- ➢ Male

Interested applicants must be below 28 years old and know how to work independently with less supervision, Industrious and trustworthy with good moral bacground.

Personally hand-carry your resumé with 2x2 pictures at Warehouse 1 Peterbilt Compound, Veterans Road, Western Bicutan, Taguig.

Senior Market Research Assistant

Responsibilities

The position is responsible for undertaking market research for ADB bonds in the primary and secondary markets, monitoring market data on interest/swap/money market rates, and gathering global market reports by various counterparts; prepares presentation materials for investors and ADB borrowers; calculates and updates indicative LIBOR-Based Loan (LBL) rates and assists in execution of LBL related swap transactions; and prepares briefing notes on various institutional investors/countries.

For more details about the position, please see http://www.adb.org/Employment/Local/default.asp

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to a Funding Officer and two Treasury Specialists.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include

- ■ suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned above at the required level.
- ■ a Bachelor's degree in banking, finance, business administration or other related disciplines.
- ■ at least 5 years relevant experience.
- ■ considerable treasury related experience and a comprehensive knowledge of relevant treasury procedures, guidelines and standard.
- ■ understanding of the interactions between treasury and other work areas.
- ■ solid numerical ability.
- ■ excellent command of written and spoken English.
- ■ proficiency with computer software in common use at multilateral organizations, including MS Office, and knowledge of specialized treasury related software.
- ■ proficiency in use of computer databases to input and extract information, and to generate standard and ad hoc reports.
- ■ solid interpersonal skills and ability to provide work-related feedback to clerks.
- ■ proven ability to work independently and set own work priorities.

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its national officers locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-N006-036(4)-TDFD and job title** on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/appform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **26 May 2006.**

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

www.adb.org

Asian Development Bank ADB

INTERNATIONAL

You can change things for the better.

Country Programme Manager – Cambodia

£21,855 - £30,766 (open-ended contract)

Oxfam has worked in Cambodia since the fall of the Pol Pot regime. This well established but constantly evolving programme works to fight poverty and suffering in Cambodia and focuses on Livelihoods, Disaster Management and Governance. We need an outstanding manager and leader, experienced in development and humanitarian programme management, committed to gender equity, and skilled at developing teams, to take over the management of this country programme. Candidates need the ability to link grassroots issues to wider policy change, and to be able to think strategically about how to maximise Oxfam's impact on poverty in one of the poorest countries in the East Asia region.

We particularly welcome applications from women and people from diverse backgrounds, especially qualified candidates from the developing world.

To find out more and apply, please visit www.oxfam.org.uk/jobs quoting ref INT1663.

Closing date: 30th May 2006.

Interviews in Bangkok on 21st – 22nd June 2006.

Oxfam works with others to overcome poverty and suffering

Oxfam

Dr. Carlos S. Lanting College
Casaul General Hospital
is in need of

LIBRARIANS
male/female with PRC license

2nd MARINE ENGINEER
with MA degree

Send resumé to the HRD at:
16 Tandang Sora Ave., QC
Tel. No. 930-5299

HK-based trading company needs

Office Staff

- Male/Female College Graduate
- Fluent in English
- Can also speak Spanish
- Work experience in international trading preferred but not required
- Willing to be assigned overseas (HK)

Please submit comprehensive resumé with picture to:

c/o Lifestyle Tableware Corporation, Crisanta Tower Unit 907
325 H. Javier St. Oranbo, Pasig City, Tel. 671-7112/13
E-mail: lifestyletableware@yahoo.com

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45 Quirino Highway, Baesa, Q.C.
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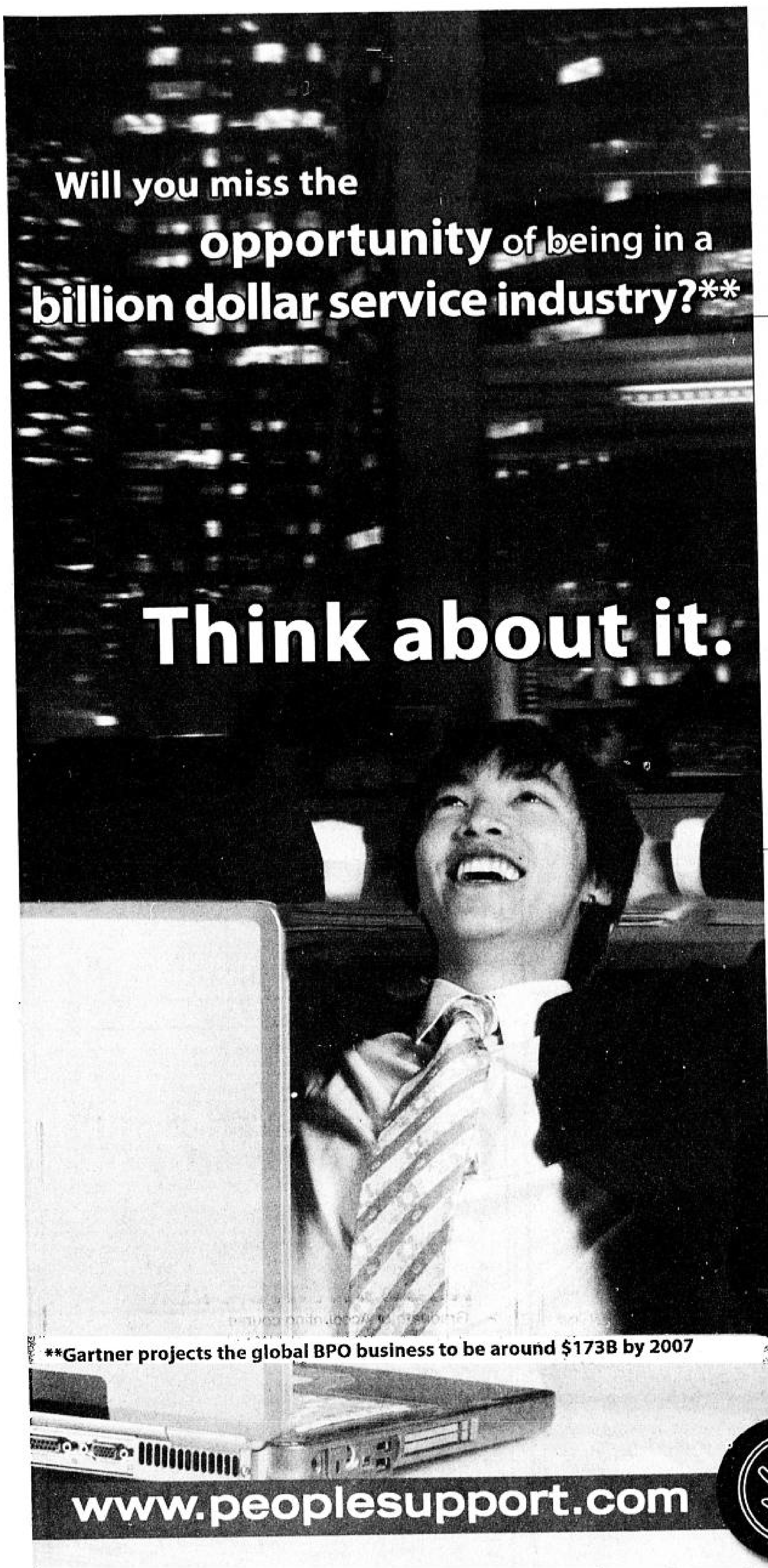
WANTED CIVIL ENGINEER

Min. of 4 yrs. Working Exp. (Construction)
Bring Resumé, Transcript of Record to:
DNA ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION
998 Josefina III St., Sampaloc, Manila
Tel. Nos. 712-6360/740-8030/743-9171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Banking and Finance Specialists

Experience in the Financial Services sector (banking, loans/mortgage, insurance, investment, etc.) a strong advantage

Be part of a team that services a US Fortune 500 company!

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Payroll Systems Administrator
Data Analyst
Finance Assistant

SALES
Business Development Manager

LEGAL
Senior Attorney
Legal Assistant

TRAINING
Training Manager, Leadership Development
Communication Trainers (Manila & Cebu)
Transcription Trainer
Travel Trainer
Real Estate Trainer
Financial Services Trainer
Technical Trainer (Manila & Cebu)
Course Developer
Course Developer

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
Telecommunications Manager (Avaya)
Sr. Database Analyst (MS SQL)
Software Development Manager
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and indicate position on the subject line.

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Excellent English communication skills • Experience in a Travel Industry preferred (Airline, Agency, Hotel, etc.)
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PeopleSupport Cebu
e-Office 1, AsiaTown IT Park
Monday to Saturday
9:00am to 5:00pm
HR Hotline: (032) 234-8222

Davao City
A-301 Plaza de Luisa
140 Ramon Magsaysay Ave.
Monday to Friday
9:00am to 6:00pm
HR Hotline: (82) 227-9301

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IRRI
INTERNATIONAL RICE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Head, Human Resources Services

The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) is seeking an experienced human resources manager to lead the Human Resources Services (HRS) unit at its headquarters in Los Baños, Philippines, IRRI employs more than 100 internationally recruited staff (IRS) and more than 800 nationally recruited staff (NRS) in the Philippines and the 11 countries in which it has offices or programs. Reporting to the Director for Management Services, the Head will lead a small team of approximately eight staff members within HRS. Candidates, who must be available on or about 1 September 2006, should have an advanced university degree (Master's degree or equivalent), preferably in public or business administration, or human resource management or an undergraduate university degree in behavioral science, pyschology, management, or other relevant discipline and an appropriate combination of academic qualifications and extensive experience in human resource management or related areas. A complete position description and information about IRRI can be found at **www.irri.org/jobs** or contact Ms. Selene Ocampo, HR coordinator, **s.ocampo@cgiar.org.** Applications should be received on or before 24 May 2006 or until a suitable candidate is identified.

IMMEDIATELY IN NEED OF:

AUDITOR
- 35-40 y.o.
- CPA Graduate (licensed)
- 5 yrs. experienced

ADMIN ASST.
- 30-35 y.o female
- BSBA or Mktg. grad.

Interview:
May 15 & 16, 2006
1147-A Antipolo St.
Rizal Village, Makati City
(Jollibee JP Rizal, Makati)

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(2) ACCOUNTANTS

- Bachelor degree in Accounting
- Preferably with 2-3 years experience
- Newly graduates
- Excellent Accounting skills

Apply in person:
Jonas Foods Corporation
561 Mayon St., SMH Q.C.
Tel. 7126261 to 63

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

ACCOUNTANT

- Accounting Graduate
- With at least one (1) year work experience in Accounting
- Proficient in Computer Applications
- Strong analytical skills

Send resumé to:
E-mail : appi@asiapacificprojects.com
Fax : 725-3209 or 721-4953

PPCC
PAN PACIFIC COMPUTER CENTER, INC.
A YGC Member

Make the right career move and join us in our expansion!

We have **URGENT** requirements for the following professionals:

PROJECT MANAGERS
- 2+ years experience in IT project management
- Preferably PMI certified
- *For one Project Manager requirement, background in data warehousing/business intelligence projects and SAS is desired.*

ACCOUNT MANAGER
- 3+ years experience in IT sales, preferably with exposure to Business Intelligence Solutions

BUSINESS ANALYST
- With strong process management skills
- Exposure to CMM & ISO, a plus

JUNIOR STATISTICIAN
- Experience in market research, financial industry or CRM
- Extensive programming and statistics skills
- Preferably with SAS knowledge and at least 1 year experience in data mining

SR. /JR. SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATORS
- At least 1 year relevant work experience for Junior position; 3+ years for Senior position
- Successfully passed basic system administration training in Linux, Novell, Solaris or Microsoft.

SR. /JR. DESKTOP SUPPORT ENGINEERS
- 2+ years or relevant experience for Junior position; 4+ years for Senior position
- Skilled in technical problem solving and decision making, PC-based hardware and software installation and troubleshooting
- Technical knowledge in MS Windows Operating System, MS Office applications software, MS Internet Explorer, MS Outlook, Outlook Express and other desktop productivity tools
- Microsoft Certified Personnel
- Knowledge of Lotus Notes, a plus

ACCOUNTANT
- 2+ years of solid experience in processing of Crystal Reports

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT
- With experience in QuickBooks
- Preferably with experience in bookkeeping

All the above require Bachelor's Degrees.
Interested parties may send their resumés to
Pan Pacific Computer Center
3/F Grepalife Bldg.
221 Sen. Gil Puyat Avenue, Makati City
Or email these to recruitment@ppcc.com.ph

The **Visayan Forum Foundation, Inc.**, a Manila-based non-government organization working nationwide to empower marginalized migrants, especially child domestic workers and victims of trafficking, is currently in need of the following:

(3) Licensed Social Workers

(to be assigned in Bacolod and Batangas, Manila)

Qualifications:

- Graduate in Social Work
- At least 2 years experience in case management and handling of children and women in distress
- Experience in NGO developmental work specializing in children's rights and child labor is an advantage
- Good in oral and written communications
- Computer literate
- A team worker and able to work efficiently with minimum supervision
- Good interpersonal relations, especially with women and children
- Preferably willing to stay-in

(2) Training Officers

(to be assigned in Bacolod and Iloilo)

- Graduate of behavioral Science, Psychology, Sociology or other related courses
- Experience in NGO developmental work specializing in children's rights and child labor or women's welfare is an advantage
- Has at least 2 years working experience in training and module preparations in an NGO or other developmental work
- Knowledgeable in project proposal making and report writing
- Ability to work with the team
- Good in oral and written communications
- Computer literate
- Good interpersonal relations, especially with women and children
- Basic familiarity on the issues of child labor, trafficking and child participation

(3) IT Training Officers

(to be assigned in Batangas, Iloilo, Davao)

- Computer science/ IT graduate
- Has experience in teaching or willing to teach computer skills to youth
- Good in oral and written communications
- Experience in NGO developmental work specializing in children's rights, child labor, trafficking of women and children is an advantage
- Ability to work with the team
- Good interpersonal relations, especially with women and children
- Preferably a resident of the place

(2) Admin/Finance Assistant

(to be assigned in Bacolod & Batangas)

- Preferably accounting graduate
- Good in oral and written communications
- Has experience in accounting and auditing works
- Analytical, meticulous and attentive to details
- Computer literate (MS WORD,EXCEL,INTERNET)

(1) Field Officer

(to be assigned in Batangas)

- Bachelor's degree, preferably in Social Science or other related courses
- At least 2 years experience in NGO community organizing and other developmental work
- Good in oral and written communications
- Computer literate
- Ability to work with the team
- Good interpersonal relations, especially with women and children

Interested applicants can e-mail their CV to admin@visayanforum.org, on or before May 18, 2006. Only qualified applicants will be notified.

A new JAPANESE PEZA-Enterprise within the Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna is in urgent need of:

ADMINISTRATOR

Preferably CPA with sufficient work-related experience and well-versed in accounting & auditing standards, controls and systems, knowledgeable in government and other regulatory bodies' requirements, computer proficient and experience using computerized accounting system is an advantage, not older than 40 years, flexible, can work under pressure, good interpersonal skills, good written and verbal English communication skills.

PRODUCTION ENGINEERS

Licensed Engineers, preferably ME, ECE or IE, Male/Female, Single and not older than 25 years, preferably with at least 2 years work experience, computer literate, flexible and hardworking and can handle pressure, must be willing to work on a shifting schedule.

30 PRODUCTION OPERATORS

Female, single, at least 18 years, at least H.S. graduate, good morale character, flexible and hardworking, with good English comprehension, must be willing to work on a shifting schedule.

ACCOUNTING STAFF

Accounting graduate with at least 2 y ears work experience and sufficient knowledge in Financial Statement preparation and analysis, Female, Single, not older than 25 years, computer literate, with good oral and written communication skills, good team member.

Interested applicants must be willing to relocate to Laguna if non-residents and may submit their application letters, resumés with: birth certificates, 2x2 recent photos, contact telephone numbers & other pertinent documents not later than 21 May 2006 to:

NSPP CORPORATION
c/o 128 East Main Avenue, Special Export Zone
Laguna Technopark, Biñan, Laguna

LIKAS YAMAN SERVICE CORPORATION

Subsidiary Company of
San Miguel Corporation – Shipping & Lighterage

RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CHEMIST *(Cavite)*

- Female, 21-26 years of age
- Graduate of B.S. Chemical Engineering or B.S. Chemistry
- Excellent both in written and oral communication
- Work experience of 1-2 years in Paint Manufacturing will be an advantage

SALES COORDINATOR *(Cavite)*

- College Graduate (Marketing / Business / Management)
- Male or Female
- With at least 2 years experience in Sales, Marketing, & Costumer Service
- Computer Literate
- Will be offered a regular position to be assigned in Cavite

HR ASSISTANT *(Makati)*

- Graduate of B.S. Psychology
- With at least experience in Recruitment
- Computer Literate

Interested applicants may hand carry their requirements to:

LIKAS YAMAN SERVICE CORPORATION
3F Rm. 302 2276 Narra Bldg., Pasong Tamo Extension, Makati City
Or E-mail at: lesliebergndo@yahoo.com ***Tel No.*** (02) 812-2583

Requirements:

1. Resume w/ 2x2 colored picture
2. Transcript of Records
3. Diploma
4. Certificate of Employment (if any)
5. NBI Clearance
6. 2 pcs. 1x1 colored picture

Kindly indicate the desired position in your resumé.

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WANTED FOR IMMEDIATE EMPLOYMENT

TECHNICAL SALES REPRESENTATIVES/ PRODUCT SPECIALIST

FOR NORTHERN/SOUTHERN LUZON AND MANILA

A) MEDICAL DEPARTMENT

- willing to adapt and learn the functions of new technologies and medical equipment.

ANALYTICAL DEPARTMENT

- with background in Natural Sciences and Chemistry, and Medical technology.
- experience in Microscopy and its applications is an advantage.

B) SURGICAL DEPARMENT

- preferably with background in Engineering, ECE, and Biomedical

Applicants must be:

- preferably male 23–35 years old
- with pleasing personality
- college education .
- must be independent, self starter, hardworking and very determined to excel in the field.
- can communicate well on both written and spoken English
- knowledge in computer and with a valid driver's license.
- willing and physically fit to travel frequently (local and abroad)
- preferably with sales experience.

We offer good compensation package plus commission.

C) ACCOUNTANT

- Male/Female, 21-30 years old
- CPA
- With at least one year experience in general accounting procedures and cost accounting.
- With proficient business writing ability.
- Knowledge in Microsoft office.
- User of computerized accounting system, an advantage.
- Can work with minimum supervision.

D) COMPUTER SUPPORT STAFF

- male, not more than 30 years old
- graduate of computer technician
- Knows installation and troubleshooting of software and hardware.
- With experience in networking

E) LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

- Male, not more than 30 years old
- Graduate of B.S. Zoology ; or
- Graduate of B.S. Biology (preferably major in Zoology)
- knowledgable in Microtechnique and microscopy

You may apply via online or you may send your application with I.D. picture, resumé, and transcript of records to:

HRD DEPT.
MICROLAB
2636 Tramo Line cor. Alvares St.
Pasay City,P.O. BOX 3765, Manila
microlabphils@attglobal.net

Previous applicants need not apply.

DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST

An international development organization has an immediate need for a **DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE SPECIALIST** responsible for the design, implementation and evaluation of a wide range of activities in the area of energy and environment. The activities include reforming policies to restructure the energy sector and expand the use of cleaner-burning fuels for electricity generation and transportation, strengthening the capability of key energy sector institutions and raising public awareness to build the political will to carry out policy reforms. The successful candidate will be the Team Leader for the Energy Program involved in the conception, design, negotiation and implementation of an economically and politically important program that is complex and high profile. He/She will serve as a liaison with senior officials of national/local government, private sectors, NGOs and other donors. The candidate must have the following qualifications:

- ☐ Master's degree in a field relevant to the energy, environment or transportation sector or in business administration, management or other related field
- ☐ Minimum of five years of progressive professional experience in development assistance or related work in reforming policies and building institutional capability in the energy or transportation sectors.
- ☐ Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of energy and transportation sector policies and issues.
- ☐ Excellent interpersonal skills, team player, ability to develop and maintain strong work relations with broad range of development partners and program stakeholders.
- ☐ Excellent command of English language, both written and spoken
- ☐ Excellent computer skills and proven ability to prepare professional quality reports and presentations

Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, and a retirement plan offered.

Interested persons should send their application letter and comprehensive resumé, not later than May 26, 2006 to:

Human Resources Division
P.O. Box EA 423
1000 Ermita, Manila

A LEADING FILIPINO BEVERAGE & FOOD COMPANY INVITES QUALIFIED APPLICANTS FOR

SALES MANAGERS (GMA/CDO/Cebu/Ozamis)

- Must have a solid track record in sales management of Fast Moving Consumer Goods
- With strong leadership qualities, can instill discipline and motivate people
- Must be aggressive and results oriented
- College graduate, with good written and oral communication skills
- Willing to be based in the area being applied for

PRODUCT MANAGERS

- Male/Female, not more than 25 years old, graduate of a 4-year college degree
- At least 2 years experience in Brand Management work handling Fast Moving Consumer Goods
- Must be a team player, can relate with people of all levels in and out of the organization
- Creative, analytical and organized with flair for details
- Computer literate and with excellent oral and written communication skills

EX-TRUCK VAN SALESMEN

- Male, not more than 30 years old, honest and trustworthy
- With at least 2-year college education
- Willing to work extended hours and can handle work pressure
- Must have good driving skills, holder of Prof. Driver's Lic. 2&3 code
- Must be willing to post a cash bond

Interested parties should indicate the position / area being applied for:
Please send resumé with latest 2 x 2 picture to:

The Personnel Department
574 EDSA, Caloocan City 1400

APPLE & EVE

OPERATIONS ASSISTANT FOR STORE OPERATIONS

- College graduate of preferably a business course
- Female, 23-32 years old
- Flexible, responsive, detail-oriented, self motivated and hardworking.
- Good customer and employee relations
- Ability to lead, motivate and manage team
- Ability to work a flexible schedule to meet the needs of the business

STORE MANAGER/MANAGEMENT TRAINEE

- College graduate
- Female, 22-29 years old, at least 5'4" with a pleasing personality and good client relations and oral communications skills in both English and Filipino.
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila
- With at least 2 years experience in sales or management position
- Ability to work a flexible schedule to meet the needs of the business
- Honest, hardworking and energetic. Strong leadership and motivational ability

HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGER

- Female, 23-34 years old
- 2-3 years related Human Resources experience
- Ability to travel periodically as needed for training and recruitment
- Outstanding communication skills
- Strong leadership/analytical/problem solving skills

AREA SALES MANAGER

- Bachelor's degree required
- Female, 23-29 years old
- 3-5 years experience in account management or retail marketing
- Ability to apply strategic thinking to Brand Marketing
- Strong project management and creative account management experience
- Desire and ability to work in fast-paced, dynamic and creative environment
- Excellent communication and interpersonal skills
- Flexible, responsive, detail-oriented and has commitment to deadlines
- Ability to lead, motivate and manage team

VISUAL MERCHANDISER AND FASHION DESIGNER

- Male or Female, 23-34 years old
- Graduate of Fine Arts or fashion related course preferred
- With outstanding creative skills in drawing, sketching, rendering and product display
- Ability to travel periodically as needed

STORE SALES PERSONNEL

- Atleast 1st year college level
- Female, 18-23 years old, at least 5'4" with a pleasing personality and good client relations and oral communications skills in both English and Filipino.
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in Metro Manila
- With at least 1 year experience in sales related position
- Ability to work a flexible schedule to meet the needs of the business
- Honest, hardworking and energetic. Self motivated and sensitive to customer's needs.

DATA ENCODER

- College graduate
- Female, 23-29 years old
- 1-3 years experience in any business/logistics operations
- Must be computer literate (excel, word, etc)
- Detail oriented with strong follow through; organize and prioritize multiple projects

Qualified applicants for direct hiring may send their resumé with 2x2 photo to:

APPLE & EVE
Human Resources Department
#8 Jose Cruz St. Bgy Ugong, Pasig
Or submit to any Apple & Eve Store
Or email to: hr@apple-eve.com

The local representative of one of the largest assistance companies in the world with 3,500 employees providing 24/7 emergency assistance services to over 115 million members worldwide, is inviting top-caliber applicants to join its local expansion program for the following positions:

■ **BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**
■ **CORPORATE ACCOUNTS OFFICER**

- ☑ Preferably Female with Bachelor's/College Degree in Business Studies/ Administration, Sales & Marketing or equivalent; aggressive, results-driven and customer-service oriented;
- ☑ Sound analytical abilities and strong organizing skills; excellent verbal and written communications skills;
- ☑ Proficient with various software (Word, Excel, Publisher, Visio, PowerPoint, Photoshop, etc.) in preparing marketing materials, presentations and the like
- ☑ At least 2-4 years experience in related field; preferably supervisory/ assistant manager position specializing in Marketing/ Business Development or equivalent.

■ **I.T. ADMINISTRATOR**

- ☑ College Degree in Computer Science or related discipline with minimum 3-4 years relevant IT experience; proficient in SQL server, knowledge in database and network administration, web-based applications, etc.
- ☑ Strong understanding of client-server technology, web technology, office automation and application of latest IT and IT-related solutions for e-commerce / e-business environment.
- ☑ Knowledge of programming (Java, XML, ASP, Cold Fusion, VB, Delphi, Dreamweaver, etc.) is preferred.

■ **EXECUTIVE SECRETARIES (2)**

- ☑ Preferably Female graduate of any business or secretarial-related course
- ☑ With relevant experience in Executive Assistance and Secretarial functions; Proficient in the use of Windows-based software applications
- ☑ With Excellent interpersonal links and communication skills; can relate well to all levels of organization

■ **RECEIVABLES VALIDATOR**

- ☑ Male or Female and a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Accountancy or any equivalent degree with at least one year of audit experience
- ☑ Willing to render extended working hours and manifests potential for career advancement
- ☑ Well organized and systematic; capable and ready to perform multi-tasks; with a keen eye for details; above-average analytical skills

■ **OPERATIONS COORDINATOR (7)**

- ☑ Male or Female; Nursing graduate or a graduate of any allied medical course.
- ☑ Excellent interpersonal links and communication skills; computer literate
- ☑ Willing to be assigned on a shifting work schedule; confident, hardworking, assertive and can work under extreme pressure

■ **COMPANY MESSENGER / DRIVER**

- ☑ Candidate must possess at least a Vocational Diploma / Short Course Certificate or Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- ☑ Punctual, dependable, honest and trustworthy
- ☑ Must be a holder of a professional driver's license, can operate a motorcycle, can read maps, multi-tasker and has basic skills in vehicle troubleshooting
- ☑ At least 3 year(s) of working experience is required for this position.

Interested applicants may send their resume with recent picture, transcript of records and other pertinent credentials by mail or email to:

STARGROUP Asia Management Corp.
9th Floor, Rufino Plaza Bldg., 6784 Ayala Avenue cor. VA Rufino St.,
Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
E-mail: stargroup_asia@yahoo.com

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FINAL INTERVIEW MAY 2006

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY DIVISION

C++ PROGRAMMERS Salary bet. PhP97,000 to PhP124,000 (3 yrs programming experience in C, C++, VC++ in IT or Banking Industry, good working knowledge in Oracle & Access database)

SR. OFFICERS – CARD MANAGEMENT (5 yrs experience in Cards Management; solid understanding on EMV, Visa, MasterCard, Amex & Diners Cards; programming skills in C & C++; experienced w/ Prime 3 & Prime 1.2 Online (CTL), PreEdit & PowerEMV applications; understanding of various operating systems i. e. Windows & Unix; good understanding of payment protocols i. e. ISO 8583, APACS30, APACS40, Visa MDC, etc.)

SR. DEVELOPMENT OFFICERS – VENDOR MANAGEMENT (5 yrs experience in the IT Industry; w/ thorough understanding of RFP, RFQ, SLA, AMC, legal review of contracts; sound knowledge of application development methodologies; knowledge of operating systems i. e. Windows & Unix; knowledge of relational databases & their front end tools).

RELEASE MANAGERS (7 yrs exp dealing w/ large/medium size vendors; overall knowledge of the business environment & the information systems' operational in banking industry; w/ sufficient exp managing Technical Staff).

RETAIL BANKING DIVISION

BRANCH SUPERVISORS Salary bet. PhP97,000 to PhP124,000 (Male or Female, not over 29 yrs old with 3 yrs minimum supervisory experience in High Counter Tellering)

CUSTOMER SERVICE OFFICERS Salary bet. PhP97,000 to PhP124,000 (Male or Female, not over 29 yrs old with 3 yrs minimum supervisory experience in handling bank accounts, time deposits, loans, etc.)

HIGH/LOW COUNTER TELLERS Salary bet. PhP65,000 to PhP85,000 (Male or Female, not over 29 yrs old with 3 yrs minimum experience in low or high counter tellering, w/ very pleasing personality & excellent spoken & written English communication skills a must)

Please bring 2 sets of Resume, Soft Copy of Resume, Current Payslip, Company ID, Employment/Training Certificates, Diploma & TOR, Passport, 3 passport-sized photos & 3R photos for preliminary screening to:

GRANDER EMPLOYMENT & MANPOWER SERVICES, Inc.
License No. POEA-009-LB-031505-UL
Unit 6H Strata 100 Bldg., Emerald Ave.Ortigas Centre, Pasig City
Tel No. 683.0497 Fax No. 637.8192 email grander@pldtdsl.net
NO FEES TO BE COLLECTED, BEWARE OF ILLEGAL RECRUITERS

WANTED

SALES COORDINATOR/ GRAPHIC ARTIST

QUALIFICATIONS:

- Female; single with pleasing personality
- With a degree in advertising or related field.
- Knows how to use Corel & Photoshop.
- Willing to work at SM Mall of Asia.
- Preferably residing near the workplace.

Please submit resume with recent photo to:

JAY C. DESIGNS, INC.
142 Road 3, Pagasa, Q.C. Tel. # 927-1776
or e-mail to: jay_c_designs@pldtdsl.net

IMMEDIATELY HIRING

We are in search for high caliber individuals to Become:

MEDICAL REPRESENTATIVE

The successful candidate must be:

- Female, 19 to 25 years old w/ pleasing personality
- Graduate/Undergraduate of any course, preferably w/ mrktg background
- With at least related experience gained from any business & medical representative
- Smart, aggressive & skilled in handling people
- Goal driven with positive work attitude
- Mature & Responsible
- Capable of adapting to a multi-tasking work environment

Interested parties are invited to submit their comprehensive resumé

2MQ MARKETING
Tel./Fax (02) 932-5583
Cel.# 09185157404 Pls call Larry Quizon
Medical & Laboratory Supplies & Reagents
5F A&M Building #9 Commonwealth Ave. Q.C.
E-mail: 2mq_quizon@yahoo.com

NOW HIRING!!!!!

Job Openings in San Pedro, Laguna

As a continuously growing company, we are looking for 2 high energy team members to support our busy garment manufacturing company in San Pedro, Laguna in the administration and coordination of our day to day production and client requirements.

Job Requirements – **Production Coordinator**

1. Experience in the use of computer is a plus.
2. 1 year experience in similar work environment is a plus.
3. Must be highly organized and work very well under pressure.
4. Knowledge in the use of POS system, a plus.
5. Candidate must be willing to work in a fast pace environment and a strong team player.
6. Must have excellent interpersonal and conflict resolution skills.

Job Requirements – **Office Administrator**

1. Candidate must be proficient in the use of Microsoft Outlook, Word, Excel, Power Point, etc.
2. Must have at least 21 years experience in similar job responsibility.
3. Must have excellent knowledge of general bookkeeping practices and guidelines.
4. Knowledge in the use of POS systems, a plus.
5. Candidate must have excellent computer experience and typing skills.
6. Candidate must be willing to work in a fast pace environment and a strong team player.
7. Must have excellent interpersonal skills and conflict resolution skills.

Interested candidates, fax a detailed resumé or outline of experience and bio-data with 1x1 photo to: Ms. Janelle Agustin, Chief Financial Officer and Owner of Options by AGUSTIN, a divison of ELEJAL Interacive Holdings, Inc. at the numbers listed below:

Main Office	868-7440, 847-2263	Fax	868-7450
Cell	0928-739-6075	Email	jcagustin@comcast net

For immediate hiring:

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

Female, single, accounting graduate, 25 years old or less, two years work experience, proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel & PowerPoint, familiar with administrative jobs & office procedures, fluent in oral & written communications, can work long hours, with pleasing personality. Deadline: 19 May 2006. Fax bio-data w/ recent photo to 634-2921 or 633-4282 or e-mail to arfm@ppdic.com.

An upstart law firm based in Makati

is in need of a

NEW LAWYER

Please send curriculum vitaé and transcript of records to:

P.O. Box 354
U.P. Post Office
University of the Philippines
Diliman, Quezon City

PAYROLL PROCESSORS WANTED

- 2-year experience in various payroll-related functions with emphasis on processing and audit
- must be able to work long hours when required
- must be keen on details & definite on decisions
- must exude a positive and healthy work attitude
- must possess good communication skills

Email resume to payrolloutsourcing@gmail.com

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A leading provider of Content Supply Chain Solutions to Publishers, Global 2000 Enterprises and major Libraries, Museums, and Archives invites competent, talented and highly motivated individuals to join its team of highly qualified professionals as:

HEAD OF INFRASTRUCTURE

The Head of Infrastructure-Global Technology provides technical management, leadership & technical consulting, and directs the Systems Department of the facility.

Working under the direction of the VP Global Technology, you will become part of a global decision team responsible for all technical initiatives in the organization. You will architect and manage the delivery of complex technical solutions to business requirements.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's Degree or Post Graduate Diploma/Master's Degree in Computer related courses
- A "get the job done" attitude
- At least 3 years of relevant Management Experience in
    - Multiple location/Multiple teams
    - Reporting headcount of at least 50 people
    - Managing at least 750 workstations
- Hands-on manager with experience in:
    - Data Center/LAN (*Active Directory setup under Microsoft 2000 or 2003, MS SQL and MS Exchange, No Single Point of Failure networking)*
    - Security aspects for Internet Gateways and Internal Systems i.e., dBases & file systems (*BS7799 experience preferred*)
    - Cisco configurations (*Routers, Pix*)
- Excellent communication skills English communication skills both verbal and written
- Preferably with experience in MS SQL Database Administration, exposure in SMS, MOMS and/or EPMS environment, and drive to standardize solutions for easy deployment and administration

PRODUCTION MANAGER

The Production Manager manages the day-to-day operations of projects assigned to him/her; ensures that the projects meet its revenue, profitability, delivery targets, and customer requirements

REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree graduate preferably business related courses
- At least five (5) years production or project management experience
- Ability to communicate effectively with internal and external contacts
- Ability to meet deadlines

JAPANESE TRANSLATORS

Japanese translators will be responsible for translating documents written in Nihongo to English.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Candidate must possess a Bachelor's Degree in any field.
- Proficient in Nihongo and English Language
- Possess a good knowledge of grammar
- Previous experience in Japanese-English Translation is an advantage
- Applicants must be willing to work in Makati City

LATIN TRANSLATORS

Latin Translators will proofread Latin texts written in Classical Latin for accuracy. He/she will review Classical Latin texts converted from hard copy to sources to electronic format.

REQUIREMENTS:

- Ability to read and understand Classical or Ecclesiastical Latin
- Computer Literate (Windows and MS Office Applications)
- Team player and capable of working with minimal supervision
- Strong attention to details
- Quality conscious

Qualified applicants are requested to apply in person or send their resumé to the following address:

41st Floor PBCom Tower,
6795 Ayala Avenue corner V.A. Rufino St. Makati City

Think what's possible.

Are you looking to work in a global growth company where you can make a real difference? With more than 82,000 associates around the globe in our affiliates in more than 140 countries, we share a vision of a better today and tomorrow for patients - a vision that drives our growth and success. Our greatest job satisfaction is knowing that we improve lives, we extend lives, and we save lives - and we do it with increasing precision and efficiency through breakthrough science and innovation.

Medical Scientific Liaison (MSL)

The role of the MSL is to introduce and increase the understanding of our new and major products amongst key customers (KOLs, advisory boards, investigators, etc). The MSL will liaise with our customers on critical scientific, technical and development issues, and highlight the latest clinical advancements for our products and the related disease areas. The MSL will also be assisting field force in addressing key customer medical and scientific concerns and build a strong Novartis presence in specific therapeutic areas.

Qualifications:

- Health professional qualifications – Doctor of Medicine, Masters/PhD in Pharmacology /Pharmacy
- Demonstrated ability to build strong relationships with key customers
- Ability to research, analyse and communicate scientific and medical information to a broad range of audiences
- Above average communication skills both oral and written
- Adaptable to a dynamic, fast-changing working environment
- Excellent interpersonal skills – can easily relate with people across different levels especially with Investigators
- Adept in identifying and solving problems
- Willing to be on field work most of the time

Interested applicants may send their resumés to 2/f Asian Reinsurance Bldg. Gamboa cor. Salcedo Sts. Legaspi Village Makati, or email to novartis-phil.phphma@novartis.com

NOVARTIS

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Overseas Job Placement & General Services
POEA -564-LB-051304-R

AL JEHAT COMPANY

DAMMAM, K.S.A.

SAUDI ARABIA

For major oil company projects we require personnel with qualification and experience in the following disciples:

ENGLISH LANGUAGE TEACHERS
CHEMISTRY TEACHERS
MATHEMATICS TEACHERS
COMPUTER TEACHERS

- Bachelor Degree with 4 years experience in teaching college students and professionals.

Please forward comprehensive resumé to:
Fax (Int'l) 966.3.8320590
E-mail: gcts@jatco.com.sa

Interested applicants may come with their comprehensive resumé and pertinent documents at:
Manila office: 3rd Flr. OJEN Bldg., 464 Boni Avenue, Brgy. New Zamga, Mandaluyong City
Tel. nos. (02) 533-8528 / 531-6648 / 531-6598
Cebu Satellite office: 3rd Flr. Unit 305 Don Sergio Osmeña Bldg., Osmeña Blvd. corner Jakosalem St., Cebu City
Tel. no.: (032) 253-8833
E-mail: jobs@deltavir.com.ph; Website: http://www.deltavir.com.ph
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For Immediate Hiring:

CIVIL ENGINEERS

- Knowledge in Auto Cad, STAAD Drafting
- Cost Estimate
- Experienced is advantage but not required

DRILLERS / RIG OPERATORS

- Able to Operate Multi Purpose hydraulic crawler mounted rig
- At least 1 year experience

HYDRAULIC MECHANICS

- Can interpret electronic, electrical & hydraulic symbols & diagram
- Able to drive with driver's license
- 2 years experience

Please apply personally & bring Resumé at:

Hongdrill Philippines, Inc.
#19 Champaca St., Marikina Heights, Marikina City
Tel. No. 941-3371, 941-2604, 941-0547
Please look / Call: Orlando J. Aguinaldo
Cel # 0926-8277786 / 0922-8982155
Email: hdeel_engg@skyinet.net
hdeel@skyinet.net

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sojitz

SOJITZ PHILIPPINES CORPORATION

SOJITZ, one of Japan's largest trading companies, is looking for dedicated and qualified individuals to join its Administration Department. Competitive compensation awaits qualified and accepted applicants.

ADMINISTRATION STAFF

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in any field.
- Can communicate with all levels of management.
- Is organized and maintains a good filing system.
- Is computer literate and competent.
- Can effectively prioritize multiple activities and deadlines.
- Has above average verbal and written communication skills.
- Has knowledge in the functions of HR/Admin work, policy formulation, applying company regulations in consonance to labor laws.
- Knowledge in ISO requirements, procedures, and internal auditing is an advantage.

Please email your application with photo and Transcript of Records to:
Sojitz Philippines Corporation
24th Floor Pacific Star Building, Makati Ave.,
Cor. Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City
Website: http://www.ph.sojitz.com
Email: sta-ana.camille@sen.sojitz.com

RobinsonsBank
A Savings Bank
A member of JG Summit Holdings Corporation

Do you want to be identified with a large and well-respected conglomerate?
Do you want to be a part of a team of young & aggrerssive professionals in charting the direction of a stable and fast-growing Bank?
If you answer in the affirmative, read on.

Assistant Comptroller

- With solid track record/experience in controllership handling GL accounting, MIS, loans bookkeeping & treasury / trust acctg.
- Exposure to branch operations preferred
- Must be a CPA
- Rank will be commensurate w/ experience

Branch Manager

(For Metro Manila, Cagayan de Oro and Mandaue Cebu)

- Between 30-40 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- With at least 2 yrs. Marketing experience and solid background in assets and liabilities
- With sufficient knowledge of branch operations

Sales & Service Officer

(For Pool, Taguig, Las Piñas, Valenzuela)

- Between 25 - 30 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- CPA an advantage
- With adequate experience in tellering, new accounts, bookkeeping and supervision

CSA (Teller/New Accounts)

(For Metro Manila, Naga)

- Between 20 – 25 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- Experience in tellering and new accounts an advantage

Credit Admin. Head

- Must have extensive experience in credit evaluation
- Knowledgeable on existing laws related to credit and familiar with the technical aspects of property valuation.
- Graduate of any business related course with good scholastic records.
- Must be highly analytical, keen on details and able to effectively supervise and relate well with people

Credit Evaluator

- ✓ Between 22 - 35 years old
- ✓ Graduate of any Business related course
- ✓ With at least 1year experience in loans evaluation and documentation
- ✓ Must be highly analytical

Computer Operations Specialist

- Graduate of four year computer related course
- Experience in AS400 operations, PC & Windows applications and other banking operations
- Must be willing to work on shifting schedules and graveyard shift
- With good oral and written comm. skills
- Not over 35 years old

Marketing Head

- With solid track record marketing for mass-based audience.
- Must have strong strategic as well as tactical skills in marketing
- Must possess solid background in sales, advertising, corporate communications
- Highly creative, dynamic, flexible, a team player
- Able to spearhead / assist in product development
- Qualified individuals from industries with a mass-based market are encouraged to apply
- Rank will be commensurate with experience

Marketing Officer Asset & Liabilities

(For Metro Manila, Cebu-Osmeña)

- Between 25 - 35 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- With strong marketing background preferably in Banking or related fields
- Familiar with solicitation of deposit and auto loan accounts

Account Officer

(For Metro Manila, Davao, Cebu & Ilo-ilo Commercial/Consumer Lending)

- Between 25 – 35 years old
- Graduate of any Business related course
- With at least 2 yrs. experience as Account Officer specifically for Auto, PLP and Small Medium Enterprise

Compensation & Benefits Supervisor

- Male or Female; 25 to years old
- With adequate experience in timekeeping, payroll and benefits processing in both manual and automated environment
- With experience in coordinating with government agencies such as SSS, BIR, Pag-ibig, Philhealth and others.
- With experience in loans processing (i.e. housing loan, auto loan and salary loan)
- Computer literate preferably with background in using payroll software
- Keen on details and highly organized

Systems Development Head

- Graduate of Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Accounting, Business, or any IT related courses
- At least 10 years experience in systems analysis, design, development, implementation and maintenance in a banking environment
- Should have adequate experience in project management and in handling project teams
- Familiar w/ Treasury, Trust, Cash Management, Deposits, Loans, or ATM application systems

Trust Head

- With solid track record in funds management, both in fixed income securities / equities
- With adequate experience in handling traditional trust products
- Knowledgeable in all backroom operations Highly creative, dynamic, flexible, able to spearhead/assist in product development.
- Qualified individuals from the insurance / mutual funds industry are encouraged to apply
- Rank will be commensurate w/ experience

Credit Risk Officer

- Between 25 – 35 years old
- Graduate of Economics, Business Administration, Finance or any quantitative and related courses
- Preferably with experience in lending or credit functions or any analytical or research function
- Good communication, interpersonal, and computer skills
- Must be analytical, resourceful, detail oriented

Audit Assistant

- Male or Female; Between 21-25 years old
- Graduate of Accounting
- Must be a CPA.
- Must be highly analytical and able to deal with people

Loans & Discounts Officer

- Male or Female; Between 25-30 years old
- Graduate of Accounting or any business related course
- With adequate experience in loans processing and releasing and monitoring of loan payments
- Must be highly analytical and able to effectively supervise and relate well with people

Project Manager/Business Analyst for Systems Development

- Graduate of Computer Science, Engineering, Mathematics, Accounting, Business, or any IT related courses
- At least 7 years experience in systems analysis, design, development, implementation and maintenance in a banking environment
- Should have adequate experience in project management and in handling project teams
- Familiar w/ Treasury, Trust, Cash Management, Deposits, Loans, or ATM application systems

Applicants for the above positions must be :
Flexible, Computer Literate, With good oral & written comm. skills, and With pleasing personality

Interested applicants may submit their Letter of Application, Resume, 1pc 2x2 photo & Transcript of Records to:

ROBINSONS SAVINGS BANK - HUMAN RESOURCES MANAGEMENT GROUP
17th Floor, Galleria Corporate Center, EDSA corner Ortigas Avenue, Quezon City

Email: recruitment@robinsonsbank.com.ph

A JG Summit Company

IAS
INTERNATIONAL
AIRLINE
SERVICES

IAS an airline subsidiary is searching for

RESERVATIONS & TICKETING STAFF

Candidates must have the following qualifications:

- At least 2 years experience in the Airline Industry
- Good written and oral communication skills in English, ability to speak Japanese, Korean or Russian is a plus
- Ability to work flexible hours and shifts, and can adapt to various procedures
- An aptitude for problem solving, keen attention to detail and highly organized.
- A team player, enthusiastic and helpful, and a pleasing attitude
- Responsible, trustworthy and a fast learner

STAFF ACCOUNTANT

Candidate must have the following qualifications:

- Accounting graduate
- Male or female, 24-30 years old
- Good communication skills
- Preferably with Airline Background
- Responsible, trustworthy and a fast learner

Candidate may send resumé via e-mail to **hire@iasasia.com** or mail to:

IASA, INC.
25th Floor, RCBC Plaza Tower 1,
6819 Ayala cor Buendia Avenue, Makati

WANTED MOTHERS

WITH YOUNG CHILDREN (ages 0 to 12 yrs. old) who want to raise the IQ and EQ of their child

If you:

- are willing to work 8 to 10 hours a week around your children's schedule or your current occupation
- are willing to work part-time interviewing parents with young children.

We offer:

- FREE Parenting Seminar on how to develop your child's potential for maximum IQ and EQ
- FREE hands-on orientation using our multi-level and multi-sensory materials
- Income of P 4,000 from 5 to 6 presentations
- A chance to own the programs of your children at almost NO COST.

We are a company specializing in this field that gives you the opportunity to EARN while you LEARN on a part time & full time basis.

Bring your bio-data and 2 recent photos,. on Saturday, May 20, 2006 at 8:30 a.m. at the

22nd Floor Citibank Tower, Valero St., Makati City
Please come on time

WE ARE LOOKING FOR EXPERIENCED

MARKETING OFFICERS

who will lead a successful sales campaign for an already established product line widely used in commercial and industrial sectors.

Male or female
Able to create marketing strategies and lead a sales team
Can cultivate contacts with engineers and purchasers
Hardworking, honest and a team player
Preferably with own service vehicle
Will go an extra mile to exceed sales targets and produce results

E-mail your resume to marcclarence@delrosario.org
with the Subject : Marketing Officer Opening
or mail/send to Room 702 Jocfer Building
Commonwealth Avenue
Capitol District Quezon City 1121 Metro Manila

Our food service operations need you!!!

ACCOUNTING MANAGER / SUPERVISOR

- Must be a Certified Public Accountant
- Male/Female and computer literate particularly Excel
- At least (5) years experience in managerial position
- Age 25-35 years old

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

- Secretarial graduate
- Female and computer literate, proficient in MS Word, MS Excel
- With good communication skills both oral and written
- At least (5) years experience in administrative dept.
- Age 25-35 years old

OUTLET / RESTAURANT MANAGER

- HRM graduate
- At least (5) years relevant work experience in restaurant operation
- Male/Female / Age 25-35 years old

Apply in person with comprehensive resumé and recent picture.

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPARTMENT
CATER KING FOOD CORP. / GOTO KING
#159 Kamias Road Extension
Quezon City

FINANCING COMPANY
needs

VICE PRESIDENT

A highly successful Makati-based financing company in business since 1977, needs a well-experienced, energetic, youthful Vice President to take charge of day to day operations and push business development to enlarge its loans portfolio and deposit base. Send your very detailed Resumé with references & 2x2 photo to:

Monica Mendoza
Central P.O. Box 1937, Makati City
State acceptable salary.

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luxasia

Luxasia, Inc., a leading distributor of world-renowned high-end luxury brands with outlets all over Metro Manila, Cebu and Cagayan de Oro has an urgent need for

BEAUTY CONSULTANTS

Requirements:

- Female applicants willing to work anywhere in Metro Manila, Cebu City and Cagayan de Oro
- Stands at least 5'2" with healthy skin
- With good communication skills
- Customer-service oriented
- Experience in department store sales is an advantage
- At least 2nd year college level

Qualified applicants are requested to send their resumes to fax number 728-3023 or email to jettbucu@luxasia.com.ph on or before May 31, 2006. We also encourage **Accounting** graduates with 1-2 years of audit experience to apply for pooling purposes.

HANDS ON MANILA FOUNDATION

HANDS ON MANILA FOUNDATION, INC., a non-government organization that recruits, educates and coordinates with a broad base of volunteers in Metro Manila, is in need of an

INFORMATION MANAGER

Requirements

- ❖ M/F, graduate of any IT-related course;
- ❖ Must have 3-5 years working experience in hardware and software maintenance and networking (LAN configuration, Database Administration);
- ❖ Knowledge of system applications and analysis, including MS Access and other appropriate database software;
- ❖ Resourceful and able to consolidate information from multiple sources;
- ❖ With strong interpersonal skills and able to work in a multi-sectoral environment;
- ❖ Able to work with minimum supervision.

Responsibilities

A. General HOM Information Management

1. Develop and manage a database of HOM's partner NGOs, donors and other affiliates;

B. Volunteer Management

2. Develop and manage a database of volunteer information for orientation attendees, first-time and regular volunteers;
3. Facilitate the collation and encoding of volunteer data including attendance, service hours rendered, frequency of volunteering
4. Generate detailed reports related to these data (per volunteer, per project, etc.)
5. Maintain regular communications with volunteers (monthly calendars, birthdays, special announcements, text blasts, etc.)
6. Develop a feedback management system (volunteer feedback, Sherpas, partner organizations /stakeholder feedback)

Gross salary is between P250,000-P325,000 per annum. Interested applicants may send their resumes on or before May 19, 2006 to:

HANDS ON MANILA FOUNDATION, INC.
Unit 10 Lower Penthouse
Medical Plaza Makati Bldg.
Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa Sts.
Legaspi Vill., Makati City

Or email us at handsonmanila@gmail.com.

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Tel. No. 9351685 • 9849072
or email: mam_amby@yahoo.com

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
Contributing Editor Regina Galang Reyes

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‘How can I best use my manager’s time?’

MY MANAGER HAS ANnounced that he has an “open door” policy. He literally keeps his door always open. However, whenever my fellow employees would go to his room, he is often busy doing his work. We are afraid that we might be interrupting him and he might not like it. Sometimes, he is also out of his room, probably attending meetings.

Many times, I would like to ask him regarding my work. Can you suggest how best I can take advantage of my manager’s open door policy?

Confused but Willing

ASK YOUR CAREER COUNSELOR

Ernie O. Cecilia

Most managers today have learned to adopt an open door policy so that they can be more accessible, open and encouraging to their emplo-yees. Sometimes, they do it not just because they want to, but because that is expected of them by their employees. However, just because a ma-nager keeps his door open, it does not mean that he has all the time for employees.

Respect

It behooves a prudent employee to respect his manager’s privacy and space. When you want to see him regarding your problems at work or for whatever reason, it is still best to ask permission, set an appointment, or at least be conscious about the manager’s routine. If you know that he makes calls or answers e-mails at a certain time of day, it is best not to disturb him during this time.

If he has a secretary, ask for an appointment and specify why you want to talk with your manager. Barging into your ma-nager’s open room can be impolite if he is busy or can’t be disturbed. If he does not have a secretary, you may knock and slip a note asking for appointment. If you see that he is not busy, you may ask when you can talk to him regarding your problem. (By the way, most managers are busy thinking.)

Don’t abuse access

An open door policy doesn’t give you the right to abuse access to your manager. See him only whenever you absolutely need to consult him or when you want to pass on an important message. Mana-gers have plenty of work to do and also need to concentrate on work at hand.

Sometimes, managers with an open door policy are forced to have alternate offices where they can concentrate whenever too much openness prevents them from doing their work. This is a common technique used by managers; I used it, too.

Don’t bring problems

Whenever you wish to see your manager, it is best not to bring him problems. If you wish to discuss your problems at work, you must be concise in stating the problem. You might not look good if you bring him a problem and expect a solution from him.

When employees who have mastered organizational savvy discuss problems with their managers, they also offer alternative solutions, recommendations and a plan to resolve the problems. That way, they are not delegating upwards. In short, do not make your ma-nager do your work.

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Here are some good reasons to see your manager: you need to show the results of a task assigned to you, you want to update him on a project, you have a novel solution to a nagging departmental problem, you want to offer help on a difficult task he is doing, etc. Seeing your manager to ask for a solution to your problem does not settle well.

Good impression

When you use your ma-nager’s time, make sure that you create a good impression. Communicate clearly and discuss issues that are important to him. Offer solutions, not problems. Be seen as someone who produces results, is concerned with his department, and can be relied upon to help him achieve his goals. You must create impact during the times that you see your manager. Rehearse what you will say, be ready to discuss issues and concerns, and show that you know what you are talking about.

Employees are paid to spend their time wisely to produce results. Your time is precious and your manager’s time is too precious to waste. Use it to produce best results for the organization and to enhance your career.

(Public service announcement: There will be a grand reunion of all alumni of the University of Nueva Caceres, Naga City in September this year. Alumni in Metro Manila can e-mail me their contact details so that the organizing committee can contact them.)

(Mr. Cecilia is the president and CEO of EC Business Solutions and Career Center, a human resource consulting firm. E-mail feedback to ernie_cecilia@yahoo.com.)

‘Does two years of college really matter?’

By Tita Datu Puangco

AFTER A SEMESTER OF COLlege, my siblings and I stopped schooling due to financial difficulties. During that time, I spent my days working in fast food joints. Luckily after, my father had a project that enabled us to continue studying and transfer to a better school. I shifted from Mechanical to Industrial Engineering because my previous school didn’t offer the latter course. But I didn’t have trouble because all my subjects were credited.

We started a business while I was studying. However, things didn’t last; we stopped again when our business folded up. Then, with some skills and a few dreams left, I started looking for a job that’s above the minimum wage so I can also support my family.

I applied at a call center company because I thought it would be the best option because I am still an undergraduate. I passed the initial interview and the English online exam. I did not pass the final interview because they said I didn’t meet their qualifications, particularly the educational requirements. The company only accepts those who have finished a minimum of two years (four semesters) of college in one course.

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

My interviewer told me I needed to finish one more year in Industrial Engineering for me to be considered. I explained why I shifted and that my first course could still be counted because all engineering courses have the same subjects during the first year. She replied that technically, it’s still a different course and that even if it is counted, I still couldn’t achieve the minimum two years.

I finished a total of three semesters and one summer of college education or a total of 80 units. If I enroll again, I will be considered third year college level.

I just don’t understand the company’s requirements. I thought you simply need to be excellent in English communications, Internet-savvy, dynamic, service-oriented, etc. I didn’t expect that my education would be scrutinized. My work experience, which should have been an advantage, wasn’t even mentioned because of that issue.

I hope that in my next application, the company will base their decision on what people can do, not the education they’ve attained.

I want to work so I can finish my studies. I will try to find my luck in other call center companies. But I’m afraid I’ll be denied again.

19 And Anxious

I can empathize with your family situation. But I also understand the dilemma of the human resource officer who does the recruitment. To prevent breakdowns and chaos, companies have developed best practice processes and systems in recruitment. We have to trust that they have clear reasons for setting recruitment standards. The recruitment staff has to enforce policies consistently.

I am not in a position to judge whether she did well adhering strictly to the guideline. I am sure she could have exercised discretion by seeking advice or approval from her immediate superior. But without a profound knowledge of what is possible given the culture of the company, it would be unfair for me to judge.

What I propose is for you to move forward and apply with other call centers. There are call centers that target college students working on a part-time basis. These call centers have adjusted their policies and practices to accommodate the unique situation of working students.

I noticed that you are a sensitive observer of work trends. It is true that your basic college course need not constrain the use of your skills in other disciplines or jobs. Meanwhile, I wish to make a pitch for other call centers to give you an opportunity to prove yourself. Thanks for writing. All the best to you.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. E-mail feedback to advice@ancillaedc.com.ph *or fax to 892-2902. For other inquiries, please call 892-2895, 892-2896 or 892-2898.)*

Greater fruitfulness

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

I JUST VISITED RECENTLY ONE OF MY MENTORS, AN Italian religious missionary. I was so shocked to find him now confined to his sickbed, suffering mental lapses, unable to even recognize me, much less the persons and places I tried recalling for him. I felt pity for him, for he seems to have been reduced to nothing after many, many years of dedicated work and service in the schools and other training centers he was assigned to in the Philippines. As I watched him so helpless and so physically spent because of hard work, I recalled the many "fruits" of his labors—the many young professionals now whom he had taught then in school, the school buildings he helped put up, the hundreds of persons he has inspired in life, and several accomplishments he had done.

But I believe that his bearing "much fruit" is not measured solely by the amount of output he has produced. His success or fruitfulness in his job does not consist only of his contribution to the growth of the organization he belongs in. His greater achievement, which he may no longer be able to appreciate due to his sick condition, is his being attached and united to the "vine," Jesus Christ, the source of true life. In fact, his consecration to Jesus (as a religious) may have been the strongest motivation in his ever faithful and dedicated work and service for the youth.

Likewise, every worker who believes and accepts the invitation of Jesus to "remain in Him" not only in moments of prayer but also while doing one's tasks and duties in the workplace, can experience a greater sense of fruitfulness in life and work. *(E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

The mother of productivity

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

GRATITUDE IS THE MOTHER OF PRODUCTIVITY.

Productivity in the workplace may be perceived by many as that which leads to higher profits and the company's growth. Productivity may be that but not just that. The kind of productivity I speak of that springs from gratitude is longer-lasting, benefits the most number of people, enhances quality of life, and gives greater job satisfaction to even the "least" in the workplace. And the gratitude I refer to is that borne of the realization that without God, we are nothing.

Where did your skills, your abilities, talents, your very breath, come from? Your coworkers or maybe everybody in the workplace recognize your genius, but one bad fall in the bathroom could turn you into a vegetable in an instant. Your good health at age 60 could be your pride but a vehicular accident could snuff your life, knock on wood. Do you ever wonder—when you go to sleep at night—if you'll still wake up the next morning?

Our fruitfulness, our productivity in the workplace, is greatly increased by the knowledge that all we are and all we have are gifts from the Creator. Thus humbled, we thank Him, knowing we are nothing without Him. Being humble and grateful makes us "remain in Him and Him in us" and translates to work performance that in due time spells problem-free progress, growth and abundance for everyone.

Can you imagine how efficient our work systems and structures can become if our brilliant ideas, corporate plans and programs are aimed towards this kind of productivity? Corruption at work will come to a halt, and the gap between the rich and the poor will eventually vanish. Think about it. *(E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel - John 15: 1-8

I am the vine, you are the branches. Whoever remains in me and I in him will bear much fruit, because without me you can do nothing.

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- Support authorities of the Philippines in the planning, implementation and monitoring of activities related to prevention and control of communicable diseases with special focus on the implementation of the International Health Regulations (HR) 2005, avian influenza surveillance and pandemic influenza preparedness.
- Provide technical assistance to the Department of Health by participating in the development of appropriate and sustainable interventions to help achieve the national goal and targets for infectious disease control at implementing levels.
- Promote coordination within government and among bi- and multi-lateral agencies and nongovernmental organizations on matters related to infectious disease control and prevention.
- Facilitate the implementation, monitoring, evaluation and supervision of activities related to communicable disease surveillance and response at different levels.
- Collaborate with national authorities in the development and improvement of programme initiatives and effective services for the prevention and control of communicable diseases at all levels of the health care delivery system.
- Support establishing partnerships with other sectors and facilitate greater coordination within the health sector and among the various stakeholders to strengthen capacity for programme monitoring.
- Perform other related duties as may be required.

Qualifications and skills/knowledge required:
- Broad knowledge and experience in infectious diseases. Skills in planning, training, monitoring and evaluation of interventions, and in development of locally adapted tools and instruments. Good communication skills. Ability to interact with health professionals at various levels. Ability to work harmoniously as a member of a team and adapt to diverse educational and cultural backgrounds and maintain high standards of personal conduct.
- At least 3-6 years' experience at national level in the development and implementation of communicable disease surveillance and control initiatives.
- Experience in writing proposals. Experience in working health authorities in all levels Programme experience in community-based surveillance system development.

Education:
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RAGNAROK

BY LEVEL UP GAMES

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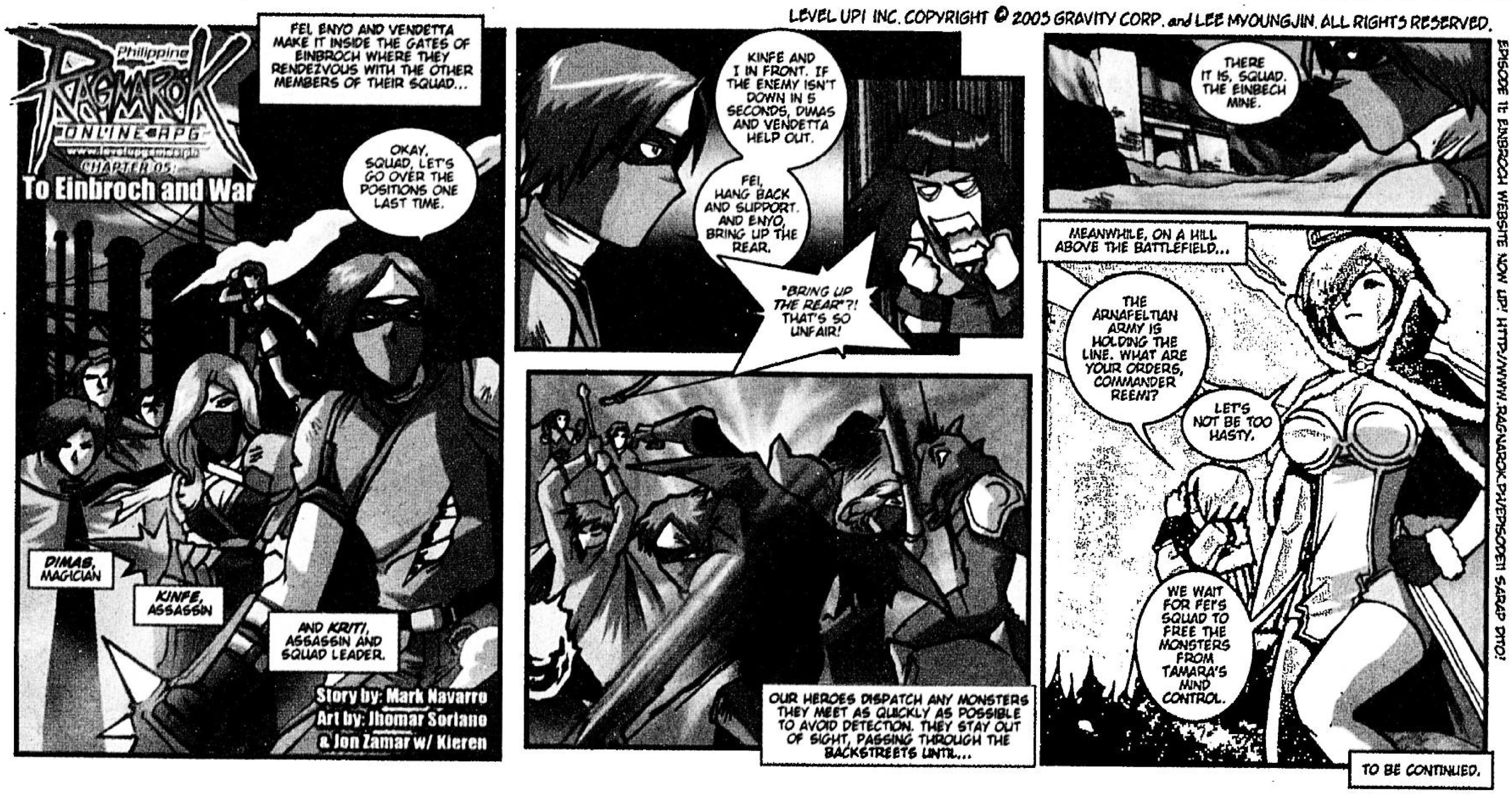
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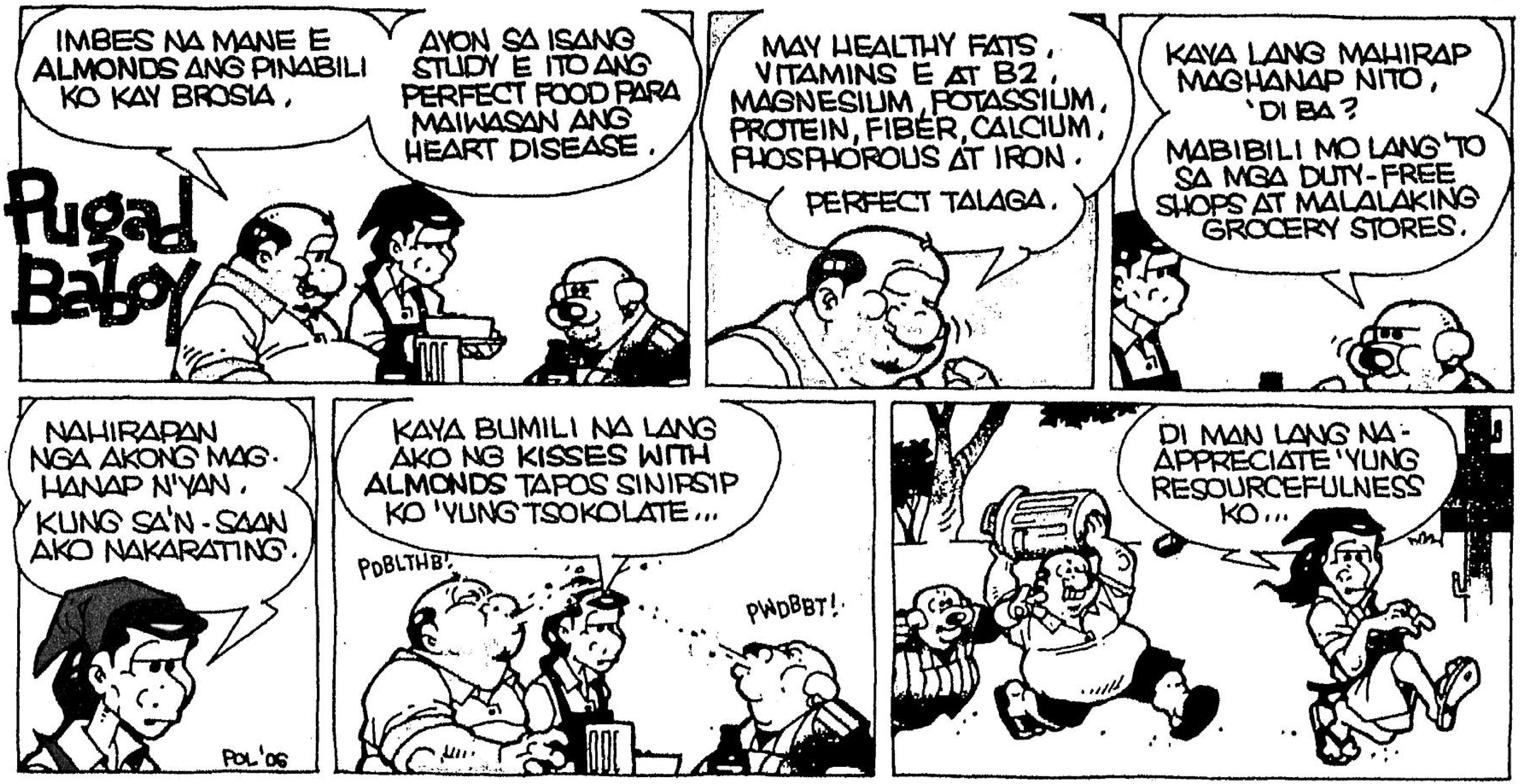
CHAPTER 05:
To Einbroch and War
FEL ENYO AND VENDETTA MAKE IT INSIDE THE GATES OF EINBROCH WHERE THEY RENDEZVOUS WITH THE OTHER MEMBERS OF THEIR SQUAD...
OKAY, SQUAD, LET'S GO OVER THE POSITIONS ONE LAST TIME.
DIMAS, MAGICIAN
KINFE, ASSASSIN
AND KRITI, ASSASSIN AND SQUAD LEADER.
Story by: Mark Navarro
Art by: Jhomar Soriano & Jon Zamar w/ Kieren
KINFE AND I IN FRONT. IF THE ENEMY ISN'T DOWN IN 5 SECONDS, DIMAS AND VENDETTA HELP OUT.
FEI, HANG BACK AND SUPPORT. AND ENYO, BRING UP THE REAR.
"BRING UP THE REAR"?! THAT'S SO UNFAIR!
OUR HEROES DISPATCH ANY MONSTERS THEY MEET AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO AVOID DETECTION. THEY STAY OUT OF SIGHT, PASSING THROUGH THE BACKSTREETS UNTIL...
THERE IT IS, SQUAD. THE EINBECH MINE.
MEANWHILE, ON A HILL ABOVE THE BATTLEFIELD...
THE ARNAFELTIAN ARMY IS HOLDING THE LINE. WHAT ARE YOUR ORDERS, COMMANDER REEMI?
LET'S NOT BE TOO HASTY.
WE WAIT FOR FEI'S SQUAD TO FREE THE MONSTERS FROM TAMARA'S MIND CONTROL.
TO BE CONTINUED.
EPISODE 11: EINBROCH WEBSITE NOW UP! HTTP://WWW.RAGNAROK.PH/EPISODE11 SARAP DITO!

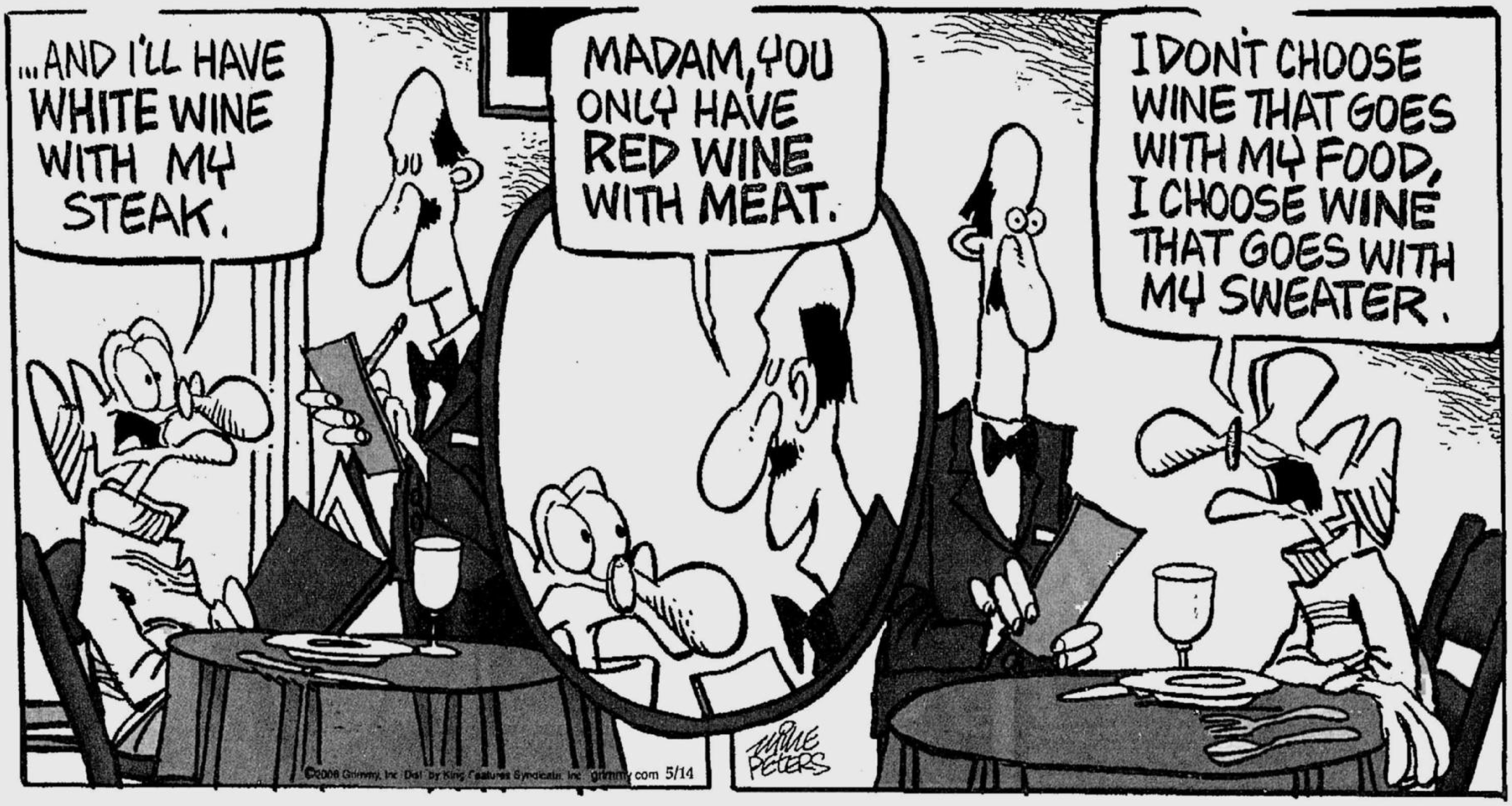
PUGAD BABOY

BY POL MEDINA JR.


IMBES NA MANE E ALMONDS ANG PINABILI KO KAY BROSIA.
AYON SA ISANG STUDY E ITO ANG PERFECT FOOD PARA MAIWASAN ANG HEART DISEASE.
Pugad Baboy
MAY HEALTHY FATS, VITAMINS E AT B2, MAGNESIUM, POTASSIUM, PROTEIN, FIBER, CALCIUM, PHOSPHOROUS AT IRON.
PERFECT TALAGA.
KAYA LANG MAHIRAP MAGHANAP NITO, 'DI BA?
MABIBILI MO LANG 'TO SA MGA DUTY-FREE SHOPS AT MALALAKING GROCERY STORES.
NAHIRAPAN NGA AKONG MAG-HANAP N'YAN.
KUNG SA'N-SAAN AKO NAKARATING.
POL '06
KAYA BUMILI NA LANG AKO NG KISSES WITH ALMONDS TAPOS SINIPSIP KO 'YUNG TSOKOLATE...
PDBLTHB!
PWDBBT!
DI MAN LANG NA-APPRECIATE 'YUNG RESOURCEFULNESS KO...

MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


...AND I'LL HAVE WHITE WINE WITH MY STEAK.
MADAM, YOU ONLY HAVE RED WINE WITH MEAT.
I DON'T CHOOSE WINE THAT GOES WITH MY FOOD, I CHOOSE WINE THAT GOES WITH MY SWEATER.
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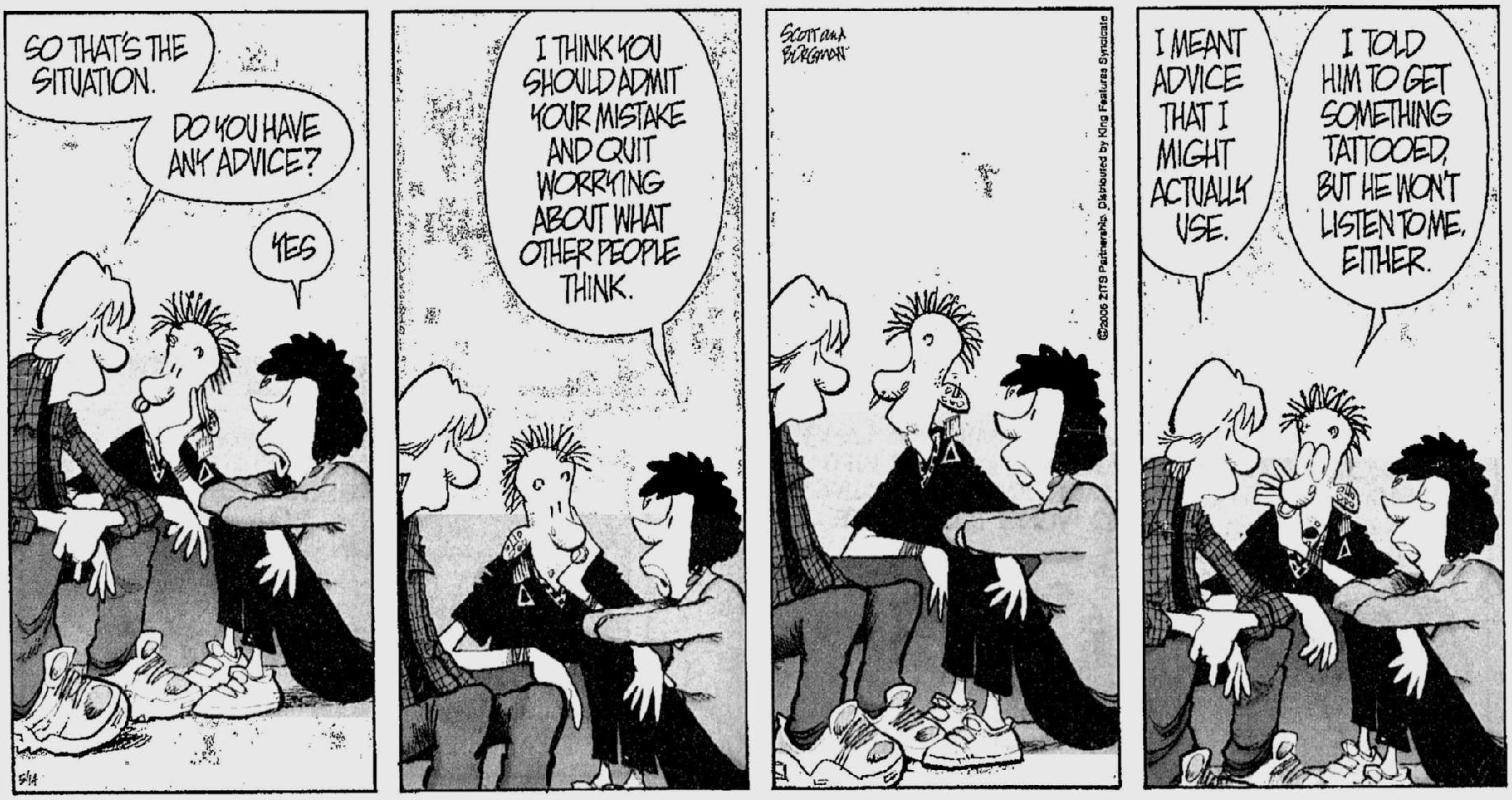
MIKE PETERS

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN


SO THAT'S THE SITUATION.
DO YOU HAVE ANY ADVICE?
YES
5/14
I THINK YOU SHOULD ADMIT YOUR MISTAKE AND QUIT WORRYING ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THINK.
SCOTT AND BORGMAN
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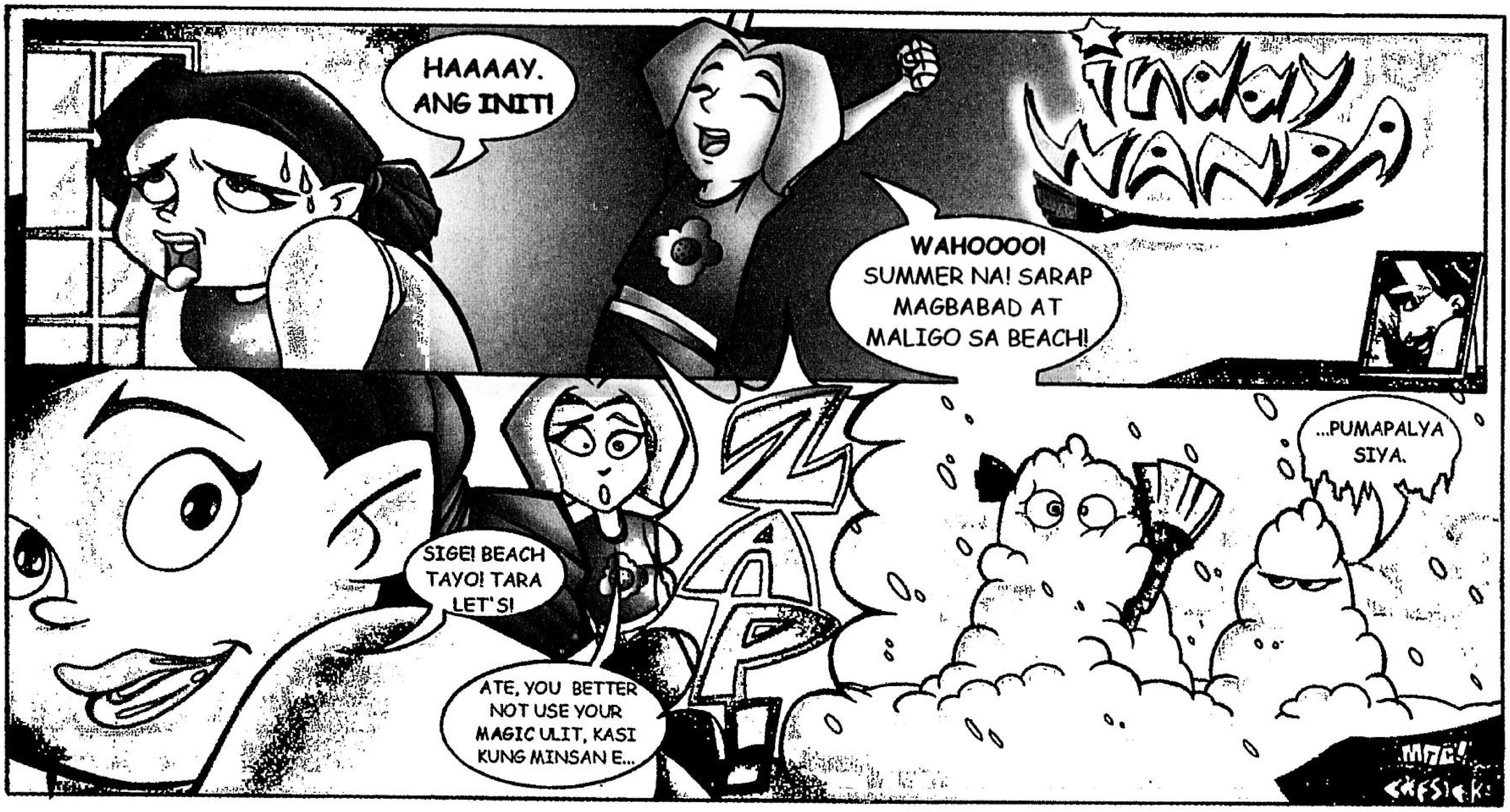
I MEANT ADVICE THAT I MIGHT ACTUALLY USE.
I TOLD HIM TO GET SOMETHING TATTOOED, BUT HE WON'T LISTEN TO ME, EITHER.

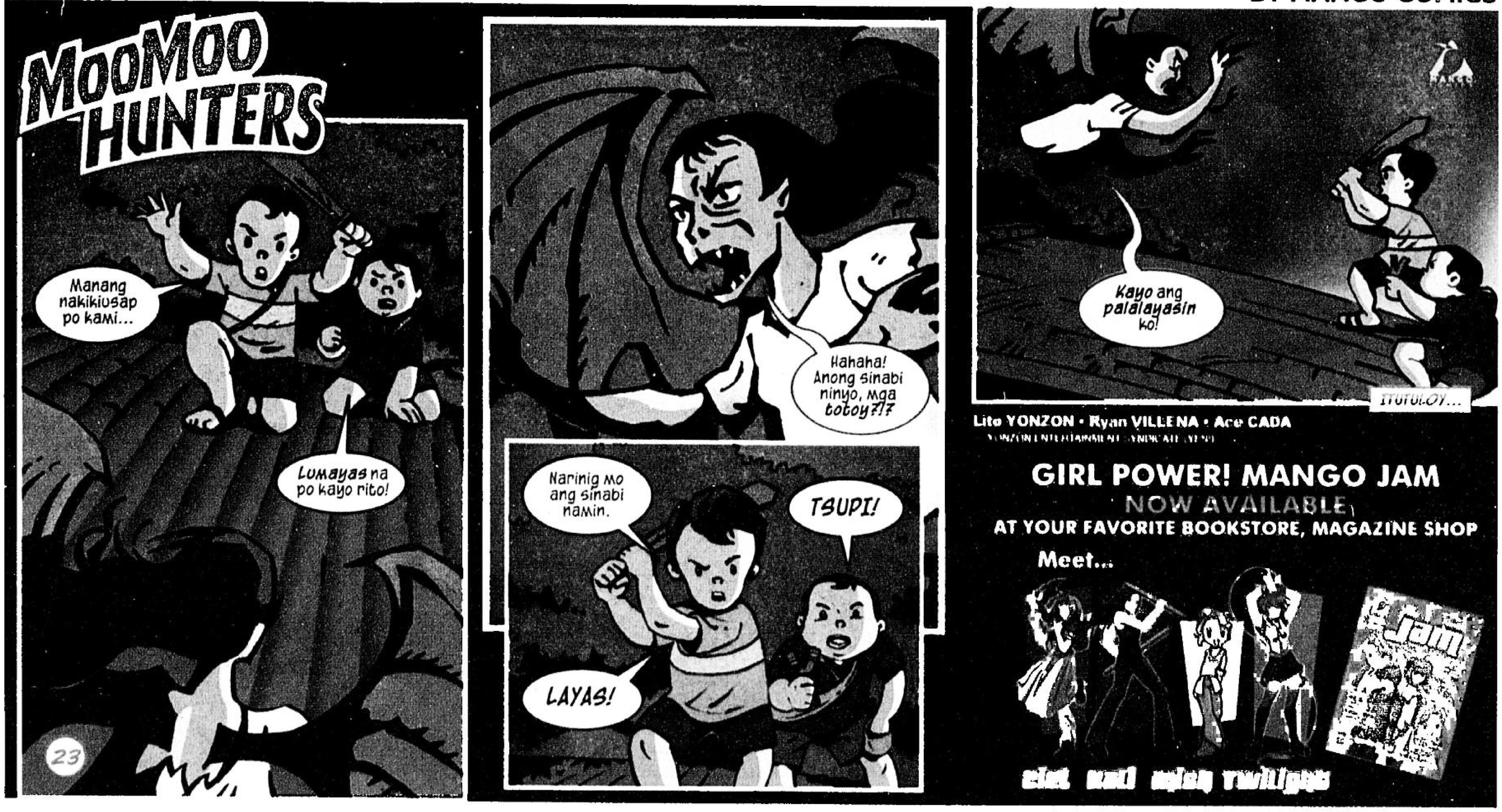
INDAY WANDA

BY BLOG CALIGUIA


Inday Wanda
HAAAAY. ANG INIT!
WAHOOOO! SUMMER NA! SARAP MAGBABAD AT MALIGO SA BEACH!
SIGE! BEACH TAYO! TARA LET'S!
ATE, YOU BETTER NOT USE YOUR MAGIC ULIT, KASI KUNG MINSAN E...
ZAP
...PUMAPALYA SIYA.

MOOMOO HUNTERS

BY MANGO COMICS


MooMoo HUNTERS
Manang nakikiusap po kami...
Lumayas na po kayo rito!
23
Hahaha! Anong sinabi ninyo, mga totoy?!?
Narinig mo ang sinabi namin.
TSUPI!
LAYAS!
Kayo ang palalayasin ko!
ITUTULOY...

Lito YONZON • Ryan VILLENA • Ace CADA
YONZON ENTERTAINMENT SYNDICATE (YES)

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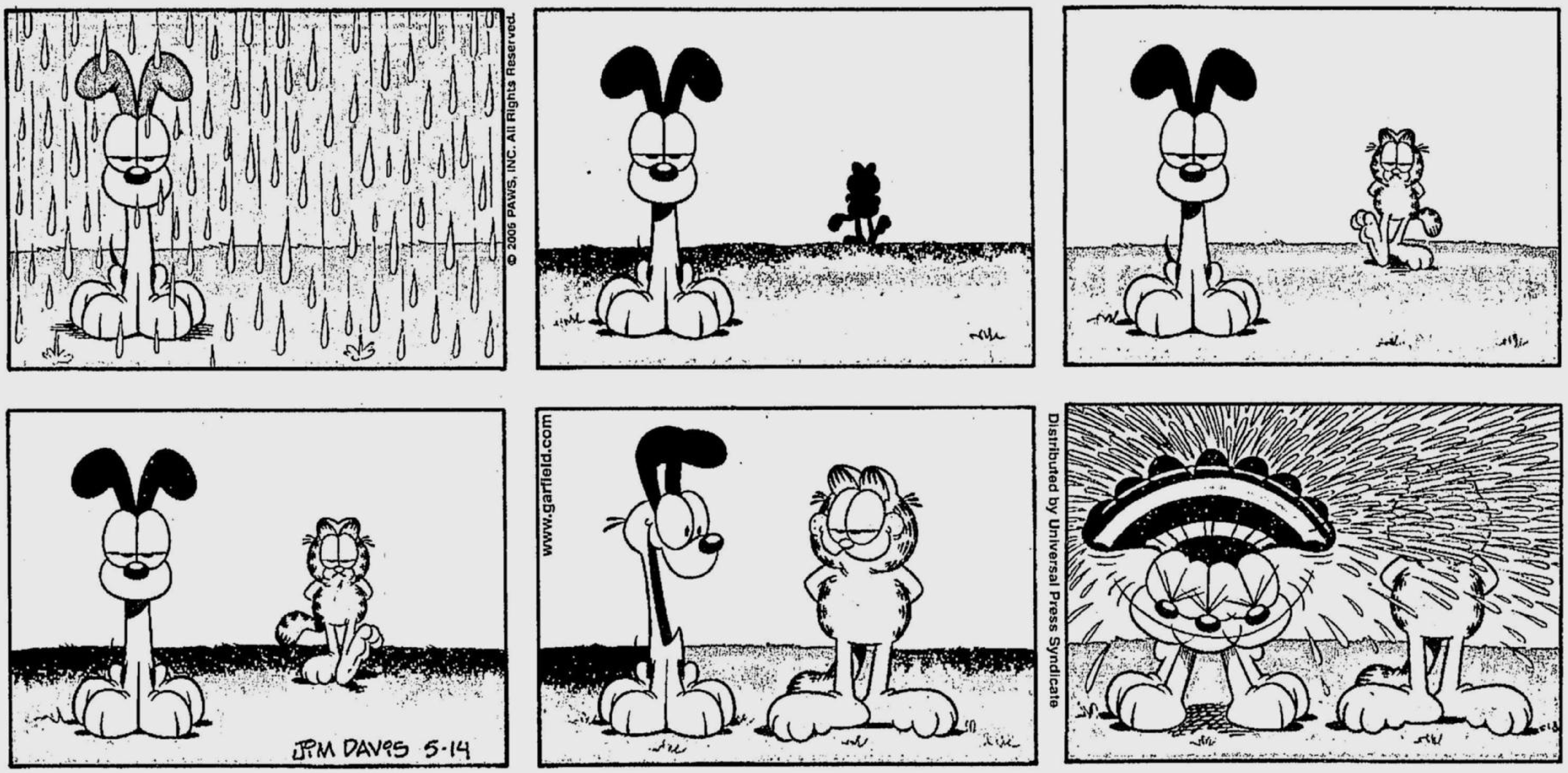
GARFIELD

BY JIM DAVIS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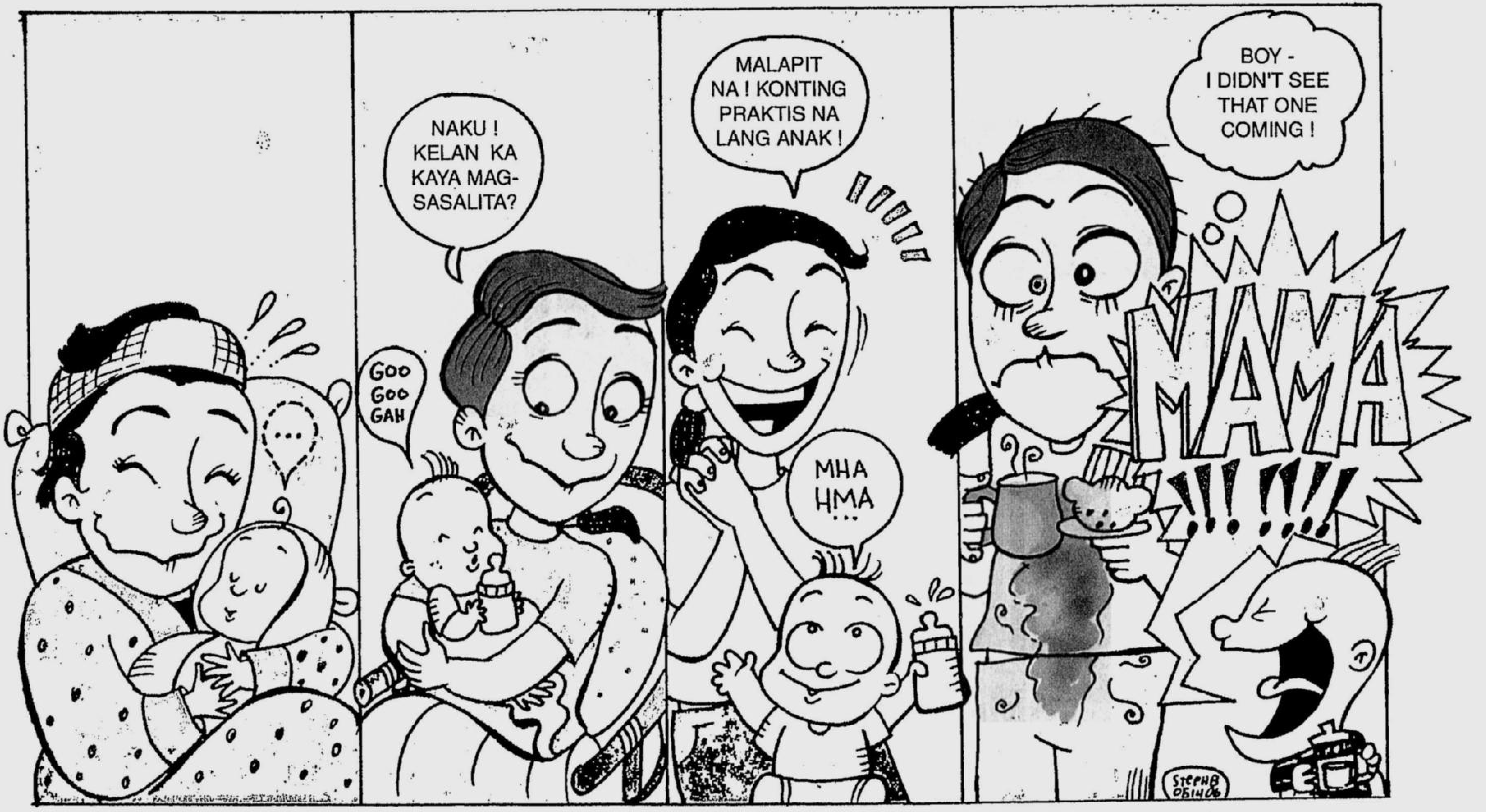
FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO


...
GOO GOO GAH
NAKU ! KELAN KA KAYA MAG-SASALITA?
MALAPIT NA ! KONTING PRAKTIS NA LANG ANAK !
MHA HMA ...
BOY - I DIDN'T SEE THAT ONE COMING !
MAMA !!! !!!!
STEPHB 051406

May 14, 2006
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE
sunday INQUIRER magazine

Fr. Joaquin G. Bernas, SJ

He may be a man of God first, but this legal maverick also keeps his faith in the law of man

His detractors call him the "guru of destabilization," but this gentle priest, unflappable lawyer, revered constitutionalist and well-loved teacher doesn't pass judgment on his fellow men—just make sure he gets his ice cream

by Alya B. Honasan
photographs by Ernie Sarmiento

MORNING sunlight is dappling the leaves of the trees outside the Jesuit Residence inside the Ateneo de Manila University campus in Quezon City, and the nation's recently christened "guru of destabilization" is basking in the almost ethereal glow, talking about good things.

"One of the reasons I joined the Jesuit order is because of their belief that man is good, and the world is good," says Reverend Fr. Joaquin Guevarra Bernas, SJ. Then he laughs, an easy, hearty chuckle that emanates from his belly and somehow cushions this intellectual giant's gravitas, bringing him back to earth and within our reach. "That, and the fact that we're all really nuts."

Hardly what you would expect from a prophet of doom, but anybody who assumes that this priest, lawyer, constitutionalist, teacher and respected *amicus curiae*—literally, a "friend of the courts"—is one-dimensional is destined for trouble.

Ask Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez, the man who christened Bernas with the aforementioned monicker.

"No, it doesn't irritate me," Bernas deadpans, "because no intelligent person would take Gonzalez seriously." It must take some getting used to, we suggest, to be told to shut up after years of being asked to participate in government, and actually being invited to the Supreme Court.

To page 2

On losing a child, *p.4*

On styling on the run, *p.6*

On stretching your acting limits, *p.6*

Fr. Joaquin

...from page 1

Bernas can turn serious in a blink, furrowing his trademark bushy brows and peering over his glasses. "Nobody has really told me to shut up; nobody can. But that's part of the game. When (Chief Justice Andres) Narvasa invited me to join the Supreme Court, the main reason I said no was because the only time I would be able to talk was during the decisions. And I didn't want that."

Bernas is very clear about the distinction between giving advice—as he often does as an *amicus,* an expert consulted by the courts on prickly issues—and meddling. "As far as canon law is concerned, there may be restrictions on what priests may do. But as far as civil law is concerned, when a person becomes a religious, he does not cease to be a citizen of the Philippines, and he does not shed his constitutional rights." He shifts mood again, eyes twinkling. "And that's why even clerics are constitutionally free to make fools of themselves."

On a more personal level, he would rather "balance my rights as a citizen against my primary responsibility as a priest," says Bernas, who admits that he hardly ever loses his composure. "If I feel that saying something at a certain moment may harm my own apostolic work, then I restrain myself. Or I just talk to the wall."

Two of the words most often used to describe Bernas are "liberal" and "progressive."

In the September 2004 edition of the Ateneo Law Journal, a tribute to Bernas refers to this man, who co-authored the 1987 Constitution and virtually drafted the Philippines' Bill of Rights, as "The Father of Philippine Liberal Constitutionalism." In the same tribute, Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban called him "brilliant, versatile and venerable." The tribute was made on the occasion of Bernas' retirement as dean of the Law School and his becoming Dean Emeritus.

"That just means I'm *laos na*" (washed up), he says of the new title.

The real reason Bernas joined the Jesuit order was because, in his own words, "I wanted to become a priest and something else. I didn't want to be confined in the sacristy, because I feel the role of the priest and the Church in general is both spiritual and worldly. Christ came to save not souls, but people, and people are body and soul. He was curing the sick, feeding the hungry. And the thrust of the Church today, which is social justice, is because of the responsibility to care about the material welfare of the people also. Of course, if it's a matter of losing something material instead of your soul—well, that's what martyrs are. And I haven't been given that opportunity."

Lawyers, not Palace advisers

Yet, while he speaks freely on matters of law, Bernas has been known to remain silent on other hotly debated areas, like birth control. "Let's put it this way: I would not talk about things on which I would not consider myself an expert. On contraception, I say, let's talk about it in the confessional. I'm not a very judgmental person—I forgive sins easily."

Bernas does not deny the claim that the Ateneo is an elitist institution, but he qualifies what the word may be referring to.

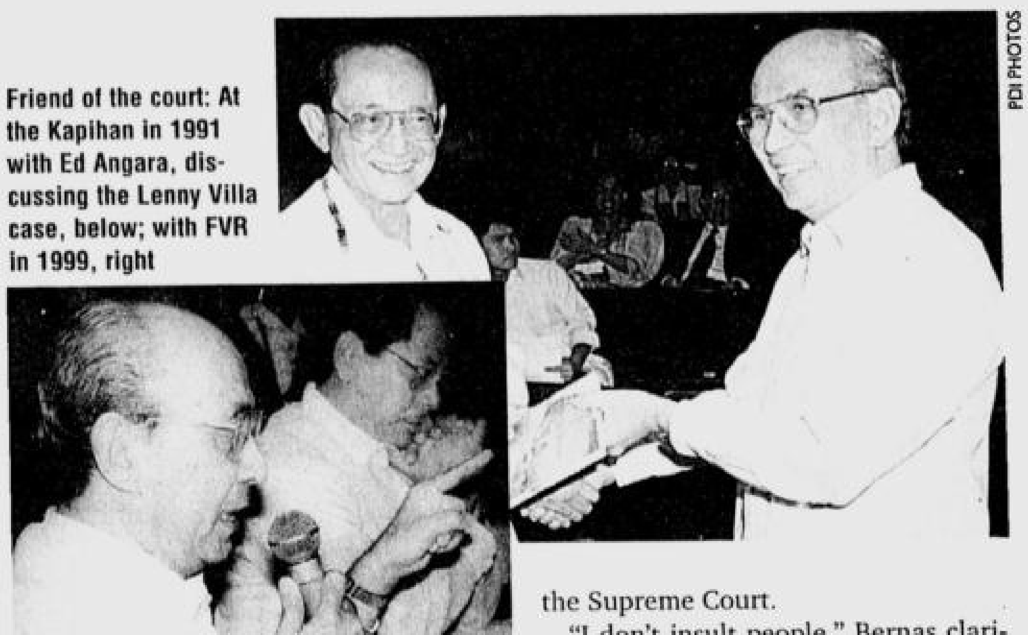
"Necessarily in law school we choose only the best and the brightest, because it would be a disservice to the nation to give them lawyers who are, well, Malacañang advisers," he says with another chuckle. "But when we are working in the missions, with the poor, it's the elitism of the excellence of service. Becoming a man or woman for others means being as good a man or woman for others as you can be."

Bernas takes a thoughtful view of being such a man, keeping his faith while working within a very fallible legal system. "The reason I'm teaching law is because of our Lord, who came to save sinners. People criticize my having friends like (industrialist) Lucio Tan and (former President) Erap (Estrada), who don't have very saintly reputations. Our Lord hung around with pharisees. If I had lost faith, I would have abandoned law school!

"You have to have a sense of humor," he continues, "and accept that there are some things you cannot do anything about, even if you try. It is messy, and I see a lot of corruption, bribery. I don't really lose sleep over things I cannot achieve, because I'm not God. I realized that long ago."

What Bernas did realize long ago was that he wanted to heed God's call. He was born in 1932 in Baao, Camarines Sur to a doctor and a housewife. His father died young, and his mother continued to raise her 12 children by herself. Bernas—Quining to friends, and Bernie to fellow Jesuits—was the second in the brood and one of three who would join the religious life. Two sisters became Benedictine nuns; one would be president of St. Scholastica's while Bernas was president of the Ateneo de Manila University, from 1984 to 1993.

Bernas studied at the Ateneo de Naga, and played a lot of basketball, while reading Zane Grey westerns and the Ellery Queen and Perry Mason detective books. By the time he was in his last year of high school, he was already giving priesthood some serious thought. "The biggest influence was studying in the Ateneo. I saw a lot of young Jesuits, and the life attracted me." The only time he had second thoughts was when he was nearing ordination, Bernas recalls. "I already had a graduate degree in law then, and I wondered, will I push through with this? And then I thought of my mother, and how she would be terribly disappointed."



Friend of the court: At the Kapihan in 1991 with Ed Angara, discussing the Lenny Villa case, below; with FVR in 1999, right

PDI PHOTOS

His mother was no religious fanatic, Bernas recounts, but she was a major influence on his choice of vocation. She passed away in 1984.

Although he had also considered becoming a journalist when he was younger—he has been a much-read columnist for several broadsheets, including the INQUIRER—Bernas got interested in law while earning his MA in Philosophy, after teaching English and Latin at the Ateneo High School. "I enjoyed teaching, but I hated correcting papers!"

Bernas graduated from the Ateneo Law School in 1963, and was ordained a priest at the Fordham University Church in New York on June 10, 1965—the same year he completed his master's degree in law at New York University.

'Delightful' teacher

Bernas zoomed in on constitutional law because of a preference for "grand views. I'm not very good with details. That's why I find reading financial reports difficult. But there are philosophical things in constitutional law. It's about big things, and not the nitty-gritty."

Although he also served as Jesuit Provincial, Bernas' true home is the Ateneo Law School, where he was dean from 1975 to 1977, and again from 2000 to 2004. He teaches constitutional law and public international law six hours a week, but gets his hands on students in their first and second years. Bernas mischievously describes himself as a "delightful" teacher—and his students agree.

"He's probably the most brilliant legal teacher I'll ever have," says PJ Bernardo, a junior associate at the Poblador Bautista and Reyes Law Offices who placed eighth in the last bar exams. "In our first year, we would be trembling whenever we were on deck. We were never bored; you'd be too afraid to be bored! But I still remember his cases up to now. He had this ability to simplify vague concepts of law, and draw out the answers from you."

"Everybody holds him in such high regard, because he's smart, funny, and can dish out good advice—it's the whole package," agrees another former student, Anna Su, who also passed the last bar exam and will be working at the Supreme Court.

"I don't insult people," Bernas clarifies good-naturedly. "The only one I've used is, 'Explain to the class why your answer is wrong.'" Lawyer Pedro Ariston, a former Jesuit scholastic and student, remembers another subtle one: how Bernas would greet students with the question, "So what's on your feeble mind today?"

Bernas says he can spot a good lawyer in first year. "Some of them are very smart. The amazing thing is, I teach them in first year, and they're struggling, and then I meet them again in fourth year when they're defending their thesis, and I ask, is this the kid I taught? They really grow up. It's very gratifying to see." The kind of lawyers he'd like to help mold, he says, "have to be excellent academically, but they also have to have a good heart. They should be willing to serve people, country, God. It's always a mixture—you have very good graduates, and you also have scoundrels. I always tell them, if nothing else, come back to the Ateneo to go to confession."

Short sermons

Since becoming Dean Emeritus, Bernas has had more time to hear those confessions, say Mass (his daily Mass at the Law School is famous for his short, succinct sermons) and give retreats. "My former students have accused me of becoming soft in my old age, but I still flunk people on occasion," he says.

An admittedly sociable fellow, the 73-year-old Bernas hardly uses his quarters in Rockwell because "I don't like being alone. I come back here every night so I can have breakfast with the guys," referring to his fellow Jesuits. "People who don't know me think I'm unapproachable, but when they buy me a drink they realize that's not true."

That drink, by the way, is usually a Royal Tru-Orange, and he admits to a fondness for Spanish food and ice cream. "When I visit with my siblings, they're in trouble if they don't have any ice cream for me. But they also have to rearrange the table, because I only eat what's right in front of me."

'Temptation was there'

Having his own family was never an option, Bernas says, although "the temptation was there," he says with a chuckle. "In fact, when I came back to the Ateneo after it became coed, I wondered if I would have survived if I had studied here as a young Jesuit, what will all those bright-eyed and bushy-tailed students." In many ways, he is also a friend to the students he mentors, who consult him frequently about personal problems, even love lives. "There's this student here, whose father was my classmate. I married her parents, baptized her, married her and baptized her child." One of his own nephews is already teaching in the law school.

Bernas enjoys a good walk around the Ateneo campus most mornings before breakfast to stay in shape, although he used to enjoy more vigorous rounds of pelota and tennis. He's fit enough to drive himself around, though, and enjoys surfing the Net. "I'm just waiting for my retirement, which will never come," he says with a laugh. "But seriously, I will retire when I feel I am no longer effective as a teacher. That would be unfair. But I'm very relaxed, and I've accepted what I can no longer accomplish."

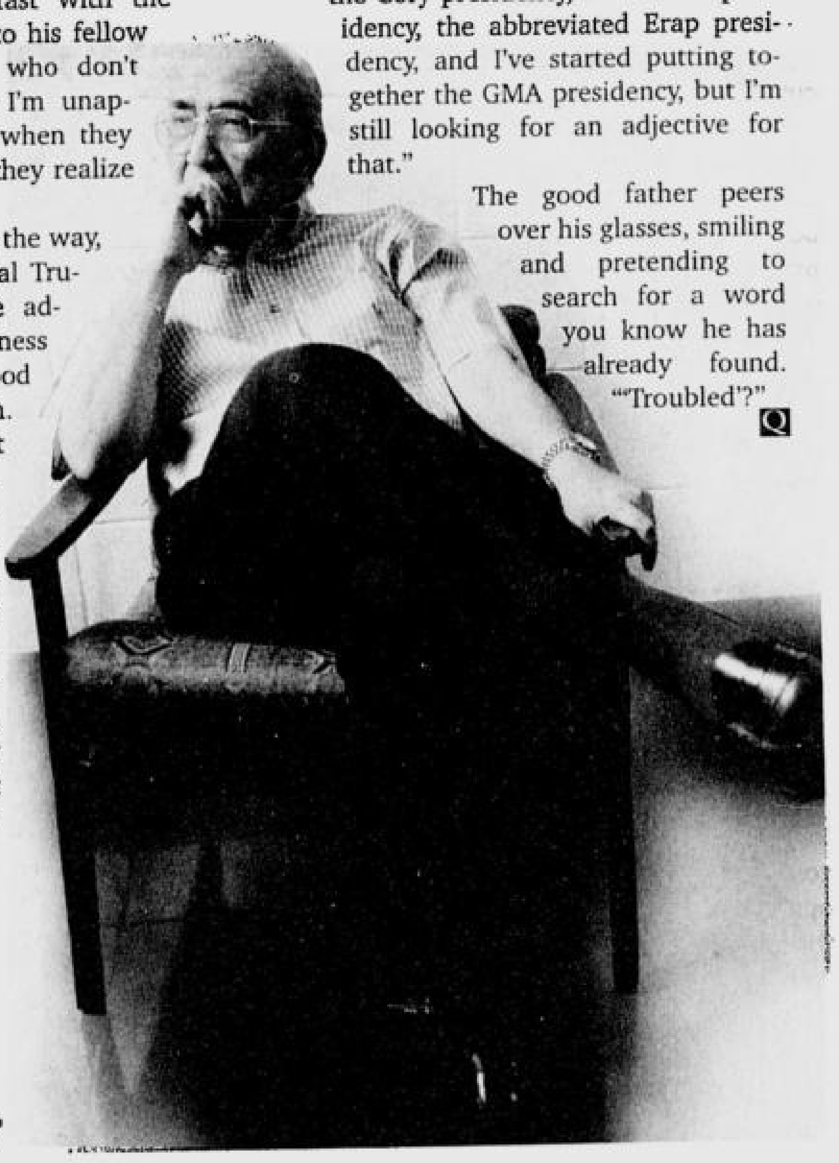
Does that mean that the lawyer has more time to be more—for lack of a better word—priestly? "My God is still the same. He never changes."

Ariston summed it up during a speech he made for his beloved mentor's 70th birthday: "More than being a premiere Filipino constitutionalist, more than anything else, the 'SJ' after his name defines the man!" Ariston said of Bernas. "My favorite defining image of him... is the Joaquin G. Bernas, SJ who at night, after dinner, clad in his *pambahay* shirt, khaki shorts and well-worn sneakers, walks around the Ateneo campus in solitude, praying the rosary."

Writing about presidents

While the number of new priests has been dwindling, Bernas characteristically looks on the bright side. "It's the age of the laity, and there are many things lay people can do that priests can't." For his part, the immediate plan is to keep writing. "I've already done the Cory presidency, the Ramos presidency, the abbreviated Erap presidency, and I've started putting together the GMA presidency, but I'm still looking for an adjective for that."

The good father peers over his glasses, smiling and pretending to search for a word you know he has already found. "'Troubled'?" Q



"People who don't know me think I'm unapproachable"

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Dalawang tula ni Sonny Corpuz Sendon

Postpartum

Inilatag ang kaniyang katawan
Sa putim-puting tela.
Sinukat ang sirkumperensiya ng ulo
At katawan, ang tangkad at timbang.

Nilanggas ang mga bahid ng dugo ng ina.
Nang putulin ang kaniyang pusod,
Tanda na rin iyon sa pagsuway-
Ang pusod ay hindi sa pusod ng ina
Nakadugtong. Sa puso.
Sa sugat nasukat ang tanda ng mundo.

Kung papaano humantong sa ganoong proseso
Ang lahat ng bagong-tao.

At sa pagkakataong yaon, mistulang
Ang daigdig ang lumiit sa kagampan
Ng himala, na dito lahat nagmumula
Ang lahat ng hindi nawawari,

Tayo, bago pa man maging ang sarili.

In Vivo

Walang nakapagsabing hindi kailanman
Ang pinipintig nitong apoy at asogeng
Nananalaytay sa ugat ng maalamat,
Nilalamat na pamahiin at tradisyon.
Ikaw na dumudungaw sa mga portal
Ng kadilimang bumabalot sa pinggan,
Sa aking katauhan.

Nang minsan kitang hinanap sa mga tambal,
Sa mga binakbak ng parte ng kahoy,
Sa mga ugat na malaon nang sumususo
Sa katawan ng daigdig:
Walang lunas akong huminto
Para kilalanin ang sarili.

Humahampas ang apoy ng dunong
Ng hiwagang kimkim ng iyong kandila.
Nilulukob ako ng hiyang hindi ko maipapatawad
Kung bakit akong siyentistang sinusuri
Ang dahilan sa lahat
Ay walang maipataw na pasiya.

Sadya nga bang ang katotohanan
Ay wala sa karunungan?

At paglisan kong minarkahan mong itim
Ng mga krus na lumalantad sa dilim ng aking paghahanap,
Naging manggagamot din akong
Hindi magamot ang sarili.

Solid Places

by Cecille Tuble, RC

Our Mothers, Our Selves

We remain bound to this lost paradise, held captive under the powerful spell of a magical time when we were one with her. We have to let her go

Illustration by STEPH BRAVO

SHE was our first solid place, the first home we ever knew. And our first leaving of this home, of her—in the tumultuous, inexorable rush of birth —was experienced as nothing short of (as one writer puts it) an expulsion from paradise. We, all of us, never quite get over it. Every consequent loss in our life, every threat of separation, will remind us, to a greater or lesser degree, of our original loss, the shattering of every baby's symbiotic illusion that "mommy and I are one." But leave her we must. For no matter how much we fear the loss of connection with our mother, we also feel the equally irresistible, innate need to separate—to push, crawl and walk away, to grow up. It is the law of all life. Of course, as adults we have done that. And yet there is another kind of leaving that more deservedly marks adulthood, and that is to exist apart from our mother. To become a separate self, self-possessed and yet responsive to others and the world. Psychologists and spiritual writers call it alike: "the second birth." Another name for it is "individuation" (a rather unromantic word), and it is an immensely difficult, lifelong task, and not many of us have achieved it.

The umbilical cord has been cut, and we may have moved a thousand miles away from her. We may have acquired the grown-up veneer of accomplishments, success, careers, even families of our own. Still we remain bound to this lost paradise, held captive under the powerful spell of a magical time when we were one with her. It doesn't matter whether we think she's absolutely the best mother in the world, or the most horrible, wicked witch that ever existed, or (more commonly) someone in between. We have to let her go.

This doesn't mean, of course, that we literally, unthinkingly abandon our aging mothers, or cease any financial, emotional, practical support. It is an inward, psychological leaving. The high-powered bachelor, emotionally cut-off from his mother and living in another part of the world, and the married daughter who lived with and supported her mother until her mother's death, may both remain fused, unable to psychologically separate. So what do we mean by this leaving, this second birth? Perhaps this story will illustrate:

Last week, one of our Sisters came home to the Cenacle after a long, exhausting week of caring for her mother in the hospital. Her 78-year-old mother was rushed to the hospital with severe abdominal pains. Test after test was done, and still the doctors could not determine what the cause was. The most that they could do was alleviate the pain. Exploratory surgery was the last option, and it was extremely risky, given her mother's age, diabetes and hypertension. And so each day became an agonizing wait for signs of improvement of her mother's condition, and for the test results. The last option of surgery weighing heavily upon their hearts, the family stormed heaven with prayers, calling on all her mother's saints. In the midst of all this emotional upheaval, our Sister prayed for light: I know that I will lose my mother someday. But how do I want her to live the rest of her life? It was a momentous question for her, and one that only a psychologically separate person can ask. A poignant, delicate thing: to be fully present to our need (which we never completely outgrow) for our mother, to mark boundaries to this need as ours alone, and then to see our mother as a separate human being, with her own needs and desires. Ultimately it means a willingness to let go of what and whom we deeply love.

Our Sister's story did not end there. After six days, her mother's symptoms disappeared, and she was well enough to go home. The surgery did not push through, so whatever it was that caused the pain remains a mystery. The following day, she visited her mother at home, who, it turned out, had been waiting for her daughter to give her a bath. As she gently, silently bathed her mother, the holiness of this act dawned on her: She was washing this aged body that had enfleshed her very own. At that moment she knew, with all her being, how separate and distinct she was from her mother. And yet even this deep awareness came as a gift from her mother, who did not fuss but received her daughter's ministrations with a quiet joy, and a deep acceptance. Two separate beings, now held together by grown-up love.

For many of us, such a moment may never literally come. We may have already lost our mothers, through death, organic brain disease (Alzheimer's or dementia), perhaps psychological illness. But the process of individuating, of letting go of mother and psychologically leaving home, is an inward journey. It is, more than anything else, a search for our true selves. This is necessary if we are to love another person as he or she truly is, separate from our own needs and expectations. Solid places, after all, are found within. When we find them, then we can finally honor her who first gave us a glimpse. Q

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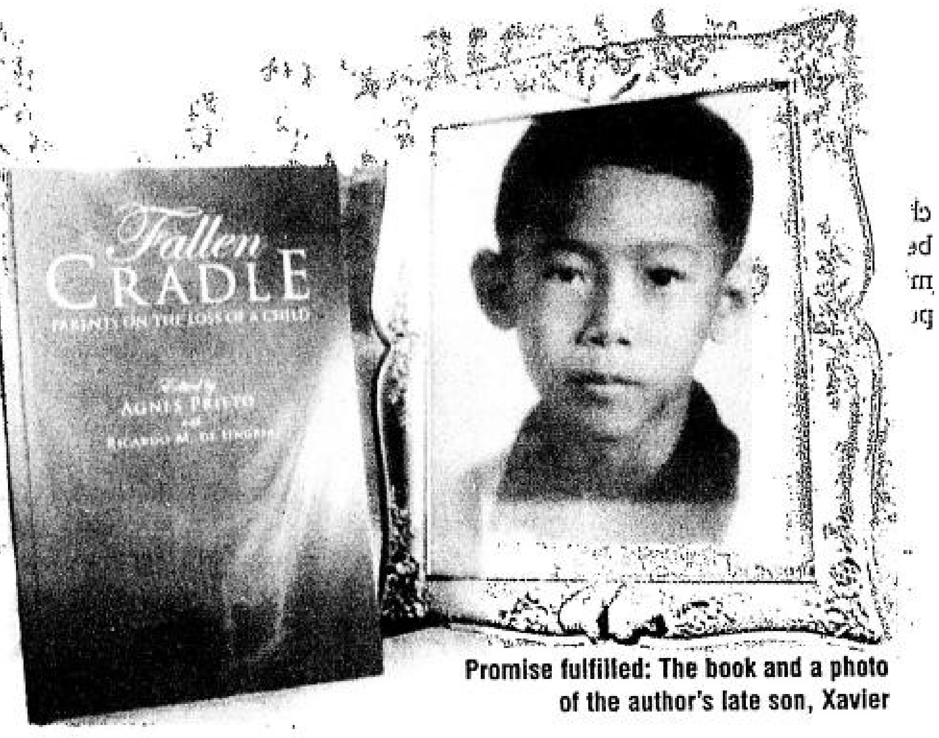
by Agnes Prieto

photographs by Jim Guiao Punzalan

Gathering stories from wounded healers

When her son died, the author began work on a book of stories from parents who had lost their children. What she came up with was a journal of journeys, from inconceivable grief to service for others on the same path



Promise fulfilled: The book and a photo of the author's late son, Xavier

AT ONE time or another, most people go through a period of sadness, trial, loss, frustration or failure that is so disturbing or lasting that it can be called a dark night of the soul. If your main interest in life is health, you may quickly try to overcome the darkness. But if you are looking for meaning, character and personal substance, you may discover that a dark night has many important gifts for you.

-From Thomas Moore's "Dark Night of the Soul"

I DID not know it, but for half my life, I was in a "dark night of the soul." All who were nearest and dearest were taken away by death—two husbands and a son plus two best friends and in between all these, my brother and mom. All these events had pushed my being to the edge of a psycho-spiritual state: Every time I was about to "recover" from one loss, another loss would swiftly sweep away all my effort.

At some point, I was "a bottomless well of tears," as a friend and mentor would say. Sometimes I cried, mostly I didn't. I meditated, climbed sacred mountains, plunged into hallowed caves, did qi gong and tai chi, ISIS and free body movement plus a hundred and one more body-mind exercises to see me through.

Precious friends sat with me, and we must have consumed gallons of coffee, herbal tea and water to replace the tears that flowed. My children were going through their own dark nights, but I could only hold them in a heart space while I tried to grapple with what was before me.

The last loss was most wrenching, the passing away of a beloved son, Xavier. In the introduction of our book, "Fallen Cradle," family therapist Dr. Honey Carandang synthesizes the experiences of parents writing on the loss and highlights the fact that when a child's parents die, he becomes an orphan; when a spouse dies, the remaining partner becomes a widow or widower. But there are no words for a parent whose child has died, perhaps because "the concept is unthinkable."

Yet it happens, and one stumbles about in grief, God's presence vaguely discernable in the darkness. The thought that He would not allow anything that was not for the good gave some semblance of logic in an otherwise insane situation. Someone asked, "*Hindi ka pa ba nagagalit sa Dios?*" (Aren't you angry with God?) I mulled over this, and realized I could not afford to fight Him. If I did, my soul would have no reason for existence and that would have been the worst kind of loss.

Sense of direction

When we buried Xavier, the promise—to write a book, to set up a support group and to finish a counselling course—gave a sense of direction in the otherwise pitch darkness of that night of the soul. The pain had to be given context, and eventually meaning, if ever I was going to get out of it alive.

I first began work on the book three months into mourning, texting award-winning poet Ricky de Ungria, whom I had met briefly decades back. I knew he had lost a son, Nikos. We had coffee one weekend, sharing our perspective on the experience of losing our beloved sons. Ricky admitted that in his family, tears were a no-no, and there was no arguing with that. In fact, he was reluctant to write because he had already had his closure with "Waking Ice" on Nikos' passing. He agreed to only help edit and invite other parents. Eventually he would come up with surprising prose approximating poetry. What I remember most, though, was his question—"What is the view from where you stand?"—that gave me a vision of myself, standing on a precipice watching a landscape unfolding before me. At that moment, I knew that what that landscape became was up to me.

I then called Gilda Cordero Fernando, who was a classmate in free body movement. We had fun then, meditating together, raiding her *baul* of exotic *retazos* and eating glorious black *paella* at her house. This was also the time when Bey, her son, had begun to be very ill, and from time to time she would disappear then come back, her equanimity intact. She was clear in her role as his connector to the spirit world, his guide and lamp bearer. She brought wise men, shamans, priests and philophers to his bedside. She said yes to the book without hesitation and sent in her manuscript ASAP.

Alma and Mario Miclat were friends from way back in Beijing, when our children were younger and life simpler. Maningning shone even then, her gifts manifest. Alma and Mario managed the Tagalog section of Radio Beijing; they made us proud to be Filipino. Alma sought me right after Xavier's death and we embraced, crying from depths we did not know existed. She would channel her angst into setting up the Maningning Miclat Foundation, which encourages young artists and writers with annual awards, providing support and inspiration for budding creative talent.

Alma would introduce me to Fe and Roger Mangahas, whose only son Tagum had died of cancer in his early twenties. Roger's poetry is evocative of the searing pain. Avelina Prieto, my mother, had written about my brother Bunny's passing away shortly before her own death.

Gracious heart

I tracked Sen. Pia Cayetano through friends in Alabang, and she was gracious and open. Already there were plans to launch her political career, and we worried that she would forget, amidst the hoopla, the article on her son, Gabriel. Then, as now, Pia was real, as real as anyone who continues to bike miles even as she walks amidst people who decide our fate. Her experience with Gabriel has given her a gracious heart which one hopes a political career will not eclipse. Pia set up the Gabriel's Symphony Foundation which has been active in helping children with disabilities.

Queti Azurin's exhibit at a gallery was telling of her loss. She and husband Ronnie were more than glad to share how they coped with Zoe's death; how they would allocate a time to cry, every day; how they allowed each other to grieve and how important their faith has been in giving them strength.

Wynn Wynn Ong was the teacher of my children at the International School of Manila, but it was Linda Panlilio who directed me to her. We communicated through e-mail. She writes of the daughter she never saw, Alexandra.

Meanwhile, I had been surfing the Net, locating support sites. I made friends with Karyl Chastain Beal, Karen Rosseau and Faye Mewbourn Martin on the Parents of Suicide site. Arlyn Beal was preparing for college, Brandon Rosseau was 11 and Liza Martin a successful entrepreneur when they took their own lives. Karyl puts a perspective on the taboo of suicide when she says "... first of all, that suicide is a tragedy, that it is not a sin or a crime,

Lighting a lamp for others: Parents who told their stories pose at the book launch of "Fallen Cradle: Parents on the Loss of a Child"

Fallen
CRADLE

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

and that it is not cause for shame or embarrassment. It is also my hope that people will learn that suicide is an external response to internal conditions, not something that should be blamed on anyone."

They have set up websites for Parents of Suicides and Friends and Families of Suicides dedicated to suicide awareness, education and support. My own son was said to have committed suicide, which was why I was a member of that site. (Eventually, though, we would find evidence to the contrary—you will have to read the book.) Lois Ilustre's account of Camille, her pretty teenager, has a similar ending, a resolution which Fr. Efren Borromeo, the psychic priest, helped us with . Today, Lois helps out in the Cancer Healing sessions at UP Chapel.

Praised eulogy

Mario Taguiwalo's eulogy for his son Miguel Antonio was much praised, and Anvil Publishing's Karina Bolasco suggested that we have it as part of the book.

Cathy Babao-Guballa invited me out through Alma, a week after we buried Xavier. I was still in shock and wondered how I was able to get through that buffet lunch. Cathy shared how she managed to get through her ordeal through biblio-therapy, reading psychology books on healing and therapy because she could not move around much, as she was pregnant during her period of mourning. She also went for a psychology course at the Ateneo, trying to comprehend what happened to her. Dr. Carandang eventually gave me a copy of Cathy's speech at an inauguration of a Migi's Corner, a play space for sick children in one of the major hospitals. This project has since then been set up in many other areas, easing the plight of many a sick child with toys, books and play equipment donated by friends.

Gina de Venecia was also one of the mothers whom Dr. Carandang would encourage to be part of the book. The book carries her story about the miracle of the shoes. We talked awhile about how difficult it has been to lose KC, her baby. Her story is unassailable proof that those we love are only a breath away, and though they may not be in the physical realm, our love connects us to each other well beyond the material world. Gina and other bereaved moms comprise INA, a support group.

Mrs. Gerarda Villa founded Crusade Against Violence (CAV) together with other parents who had lost their children in violent crimes after her son Lenny was beaten to death in a fraternity hazing incident. We featured her speech for Lenny's birthday. Despite all their efforts, she still has to see justice meted out in the manner that is fit to the loss of her son. At CAV, I met women who had been ordinary housewives but were thrust into roles as para-legal practitioners as they took their own cases to justice.

One of these women was Claire Ferrer, whose only son, Manny Jr., was driving his sisters to school when an assailant, in road rage, shot him in the head. Without any witnesses, Claire was able to bring the assailant to court.

Thelma Chiong was another aggrieved and grieving mom I managed to track down, this time in Cebu. There is an air about Thelma, of one who has slain dragons single-handedly. She was able to get a death conviction for the perpetrators of the rape-slay of her children Jackie and Joy, against all odds. Now she heads the CAV in the Visayas, time and again, with a price on her head. The commutation of the death penalty is something she tries not to get emotional about.

Three fathers

It is interesting to note that the three fathers who write all do so in poetry. Ambassador Fortunato U. Abat was my boss in the Philippine Embassy in China in the early '80s; he writes on how he still yearns for his son Tito, a military officer who died in Mindanao. Roger Mangahas writes on Tagum's passing, and Gemino Abad does poetry for Tosi, his infant son.

When all the manuscripts had been submitted to Anvil, the publisher, I met Noemi Lardizabal Dado in the grief recovery support group, Healing Circles, which I had set up. She had lost a young son, Luijo, in a drowning accident. She narrates the dark nights she and her family underwent and the eventual healing that happened. Noemi manages Compassionate Friends, a support group for parents who have lost their children.

While the original intent of putting the book together was to gather kin-

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Thank you

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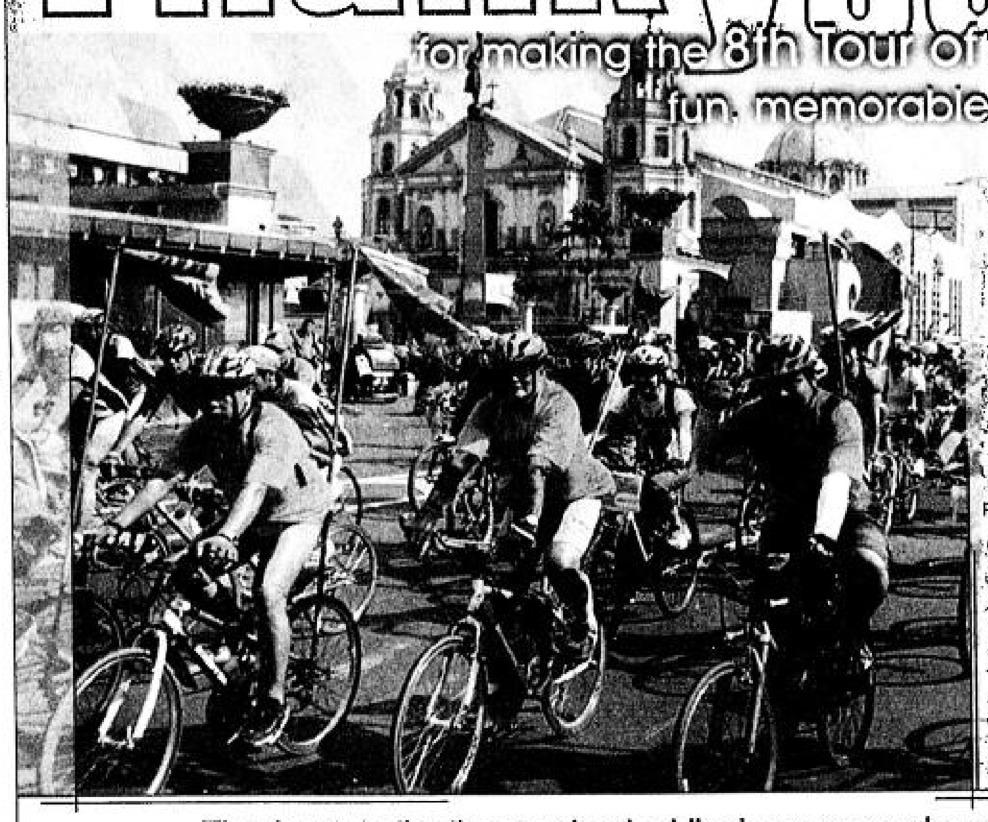

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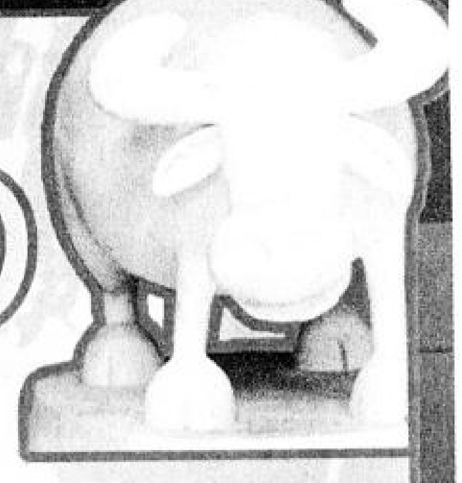

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Fashionwatch

by Joy Rojas

This super stylist hit the ground running—and is still running at full speed

JUN DE LEON

IF Chechel Joson's memory serves her right, a cover shoot with "Pinoy Big Brother" celebrity housemate Bianca Gonzalez and a fashion story with photographer Darren Tieste and Australian model Georgina were among the things she did this week. She also met with a web page designer, an appointment that overlapped with this interview, but otherwise, things have been a blur for one of the industry's most sought-after makeup artists and stylists.

Pictures from her laptop help her reconstruct the whirlwind weeks before. There were makeup and styling assignments for Maricel Soriano's Globe billboard, Judy Ann Santos' Pacific Blue, and Nicole Hernandez's Pepsi adverts. Christian Bautista's billboard for Bench is also her doing, as is Bench's "18 Lives," a colorful campaign featuring paparazzi shots of young people in their milieu.

To the untrained eye, Joson's handiwork may be too subtle to see. After all, how hard could it be, styling young people doing young people things, right? But behind the seemingly spontaneous shots is a lot of hard work and a carefully laid-out plan. "Pulling out the clothes, putting a collection and look together, it's all research," she says while scanning through the photos. "You have to be ready and make sure that everything's tied in together. Actually, there are no rules to follow," she concludes of styling, "but everything just has to make sense."

Ditto with makeup. When Judy Ann Santos was singled out in a sea of celebrities as the Star of the Night in an awards ceremony held not too long ago, it was almost as if Joson, who started doing Santos' makeup when she was in "Krystala," had won, too. "It was so funny, but in a recent awards show, Lucy Torres Gomez and Lorna Tolentino were each given beauty awards," relates Joson. "I did Lucy's makeup, while (Joson's mentor, senior makeup artist) Juan Sarte did LT's. So when they won, there we were, screaming excitedly on the phone, like two sisters."

DARREN TIESTE

Work of art: Joson, shown here fixing up a model for a shoot, knows a thing or two about beauty, having worked as a model herself (top)

Finally arrived

For sure, there have been bad days—like the time a veteran broadcaster ordered her *alalay* to keep an eye on Joson as she was clearing her makeup and brushes from the newshen's room. "Not to brag," she explains, "but my makeup was bought from the States and wasn't available here at the time I did her face. Still, she was worried that I would get one of her things. It made me feel so bad." For the most part, however, Joson has been getting the respect she deserves.

Her star-studded appointment book and hectic schedule are ample proof that Chechel Joson really is the hottest celebrity stylist out there

Original makeup artist to the stars James Cooper is a fan, as is former Miss Universe Gloria Diaz, who texted to thank her "for making me look beautiful. Now that's a text you don't erase!" she exclaims.

But when Joson opens an e-mail from an advertising agency inviting her to be the lone makeup artist for an upcoming project, she feels she has finally arrived.

"I love them all," she swoons when asked which job from advertising, glossy magazines or live appearances she is proudest of. "Everything I do, I always give my all, I do my best. I think I have the heart for it."

Career options

Ironically, makeup and styling were anything but career options for Ma. Lourdes Clariceli, the eldest of ex-Nueva Ecija congressman and governor Edno Joson's four kids. They were simply things she liked. At 3, Joson never left home without a handbag, and once attended a children's party sporting a tube top, pants, necklace and purse. In high school, she remembers being starstruck, staring for hours at local and foreign celebrities' faces in magazines.

Her earliest ambition was to be a doctor, but her fear of needles and inability to memorize human anatomy prompted the medical technology major from the College of the Holy Spirit to shift to, of all things, math. "Not to put anyone down, but when people, especially guys, saw me, they tend to associate me with the 'easier' courses," she explains. "Like, fine arts *ka*? Math was so easy for me. Hello, I'm not *bobo*, okay?"

After graduating, she flew to the States, partly to escape from the clutches of her strict parents, but mostly to find herself. Joson, who first stayed with relatives in LA, moved to

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Theater Tales

by Ces Rodriguez

AUGUST DELA CRUZ

She's not menopausal just yet, but that doesn't mean she can't act the part

For one of the country's most respected stage actresses, playing older women with issues is simply a matter of stretching her considerable talents. But Shamaine Centenera is giving quite a performance juggling career and domestic life, as well

AT 41, Shamaine Centenera is a long way from menopause, which is the highly-charged theme of her current show, the off-Broadway comedy musical "She's So Hot," by Canadian playwright JJ MacColl.

Shamaine plays Marnie Summers, the power-suited character eager to shove an overstuffed pie of achievements down the throats of her classmates during a reunion to compensate for the other demons she refuses to face—including menopause.

Unlike the menses, a culturally acceptable condition that women can twitter about without pause or compunction, menopause is a little more…fraught.

Menopause doesn't just pause, it turns off the tap. Like, forever. Aside from the implications of having ovaries past their expiry date, women of "a certain age" become the subject of jokes and sly references to hot flushes, memory loss, dryness down there, erratic temper, and all the vagaries of a lost youth.

Which is the point of the musical about three fiftyish women meeting to rehearse a review about menopause for their 35th high school reunion. As MacColl herself writes in her notes on the show, "I based the show on comments made by groups of women in

To page 7

She's not...from page 6

their late forties and early fifties who attended two potluck dinners and talked about every aspect of their lives in relationship to ageing." While the first dinner was "a bawdy riotous hoot," the second was somber. "Fear," MacColl recalls, "was the operative word—fear of being alone, without money, a bag lady; fear of failing health, losing identity, independence."

Not knowing first-hand the cultural shame of menopause, Shamaine grasps at comparisons. "I related to my role in terms of a woman going through different stages," she admits. "When I got pregnant and was about to give birth, I was so scared—like, wow, this is a new thing. I've never encountered this before and I want to have a grasp of it. So I did Lamaze." In the same way, she adds, when they decided to do the play, they had a press con with a doctor who talked about it. "For me it was like, 'I'm gonna go through that stage, I better know what's going to happen to me.' So I related to it only because I know I will go through it sometime soon."

Reflected glory

Joining Shamaine in the play are Lynn Sherman as Kate Phillips, a failed writer/performer who saw her dreams nosedive because "life got in the way"; Pinky Marquez as Cynthia Sawyer, the devoted Christian wife in pearls and matching suits basking in the reflected glory of her husband, and Niña Romualdez as Zsuzsu Herendy, a former Hungarian star who exudes divahood even if she has to push mops for a living.

Knowing and being are often night and day but Shamaine herself looked at her age as impetus to stretch herself. While best recognized for her role as Cecile in the movie "Crying Ladies," and recently as wife to real-life husband Nonie Buencamino and six-year-old daughter Julia in the TV commercial for Meralco, Shamaine has prowled the stage for some 25 years, and is considered one of the most accomplished theater actresses of our time.

She was a theater scholar of the Philippine High School for the Arts in Makiling, and then went on to major in theater at the University of the Philippines. In 1985, she won first prize for solo delivery at the British Council's Shakespearian competition. She was also a participant in the 13th Singaporean Drama Festival in 1987, and a delegate to the First ASEAN Theater Festival the following year. A member of Tanghalang Pilipino's Actors' Company who has also worked with Dulaang UP, Repertory Philippines and the Philippine Educational Theater Association, Shamaine was often cast in dramatic roles.

None of these seemed readily apparent from her parents. Shamaine was raised by her mother, Nena Estrada, who taught high school and college in Naga, Camarines Sur. She never met her father, Joseling Centenera, "so I don't know if he sings or if he acts."

Propensity for the stage

Shamaine credits her exposure to the arts to Colegio de Santa Isabel, her elementary school in Naga City. The school would go out of its way to invite veteran stage actor Tommy Abuel for school productions of "The King and I," where Shamaine was part of the chorus. The school, noticing her propensity for the stage and for acing declamation contests, sent her application to the Philippine School for the Arts.

Her mom, now 66, was sweetness personified. "She never said a negative thing about my performing," she asserts. "It's funny because she would criticize me, sometimes when she's watched my play. She'd say, *'Parang* you cried too much.' Critic *ba*!"

Seven years ago, Shamaine and husband Nonie moved to Los Baños to raise their four children: Delphine, now 16, a fourth year high school student at Shamaine's alma mater; Gorio, 12, an incoming freshman at Philippine Science High School; Jose, 9 who studies at a non-traditional school in Los Baños where the curriculum is set by the learning pace of the child; and Julia, 6.

"We wanted the kids to grow up in a place where the other children are not so materialistic. We didn't want them to compete in terms of material acquisitions."

Did it work?

"Yes! My two youngest, they play with insects; they watch birds hatch from their eggs!"

Plus there's the luxury of incredible legroom at a price that wouldn't buy you a roachless room in Manila. "Our house is 600 square meters, with four bedrooms that have their own toilet and bath. All for P12,000! With its own yard! It's a palace!"

Of course, Nonie and Shamaine have to contend with daily four-hour commutes, the vagaries of gas prices, or Shamaine trying to catch the last 10 p.m. bus back home to Los Baños. She gave up driving home from work after she once fell asleep at the wheel and woke to find her car stalled on the crosshairs of the railroad tracks.

The inconvenience of living out of town was something she has learned to put up with after her husband had urged her to get out of her comfort zone and end her self-imposed hiatus from the stage to raise her children.

There was a time when she didn't even watch plays "because I felt so envious," Shamaine recalls. "I would accept films because they only take a little of my time. But stage is so demanding. You can't just go rusty and then perform. Your sensibilities, your timing is off."

Juggling priorities

After she accepted a role she felt was too good to pass up, Shamaine realized that she could juggle her time and her priorities. Although this meant passing up freelance jobs as assistant director for commercials, which she admits pays a lot, she understood and accepted the payoff. "As a freelancer, you don't know when the next job is coming and you think, wow, I'm getting in just one or two days in a commercial what I'm being paid for one whole production. But that's the trade-off."

When she was asked by "We're Still Hot" director Leo Rialp to audition for the musical, Shamaine blithely went along, taking on the parts of all the four female leads in two separate readings. What freaked her out was when Leo finally chose her to play Marnie.

"When I learned I was finally accepted, I couldn't give a definite answer. I was trying to buy time because I was thinking, 'I can't sing, I can't!' I told my husband, don't you realize that I will be putting myself through so much torture? I have to sing and that's so scary for me. It's only getting easier now because we've done so many shows. But here, before each show, it was like"—she thumps her chest—"I had to build the confidence to sing."

It didn't help that she was required to sing alongside formidable belters like Marquez and Sherman, or Romualdez, who, with co-producer Maan Hontiveros were once part of the all-female singing group, The Lollipops.

Fortunately, Shamaine had a vocal coach, although it was still equal parts bravura and terror that allowed her to go onstage and try out something completely different. Even comedy was not in her usual thespic repertoire.

Angsty roles

But the stretching out, in fact, seems like an antidote to her terror of anything new and different. Now, says this actress known for her angsty roles, "my gauge for choosing roles is something that really challenges me, roles that I've never done before. The production must be good and I should like the director."

Which means that after "We're Still Hot" wraps up at the end of June, Shamaine is set to work with director Gil Portes in a digital movie. "It's a nice, difficult role because I'm playing wife to my real husband, but we have a love scene where I tell him I've used up all his money—while lovemaking. *Hindi ba ang hirap nun?!?*"

Plus, she got word that theater stalwart, Tony Mabesa ("my mentor") is interested in casting her as the dying Sarah Bernhardt in another stage play. "It was like, wow, I'm only in my 40s, and that woman is ancient. That's something very difficult for me because the physicalization, the language, the diction is so different. I really have to do research on the role."

But reinvention is the better part of womanhood. For Shamaine, it's pushing past her fear of anything new, much like her character gingerly entering a literal and figurative stage that's familiar and incredibly fraught at the same time.

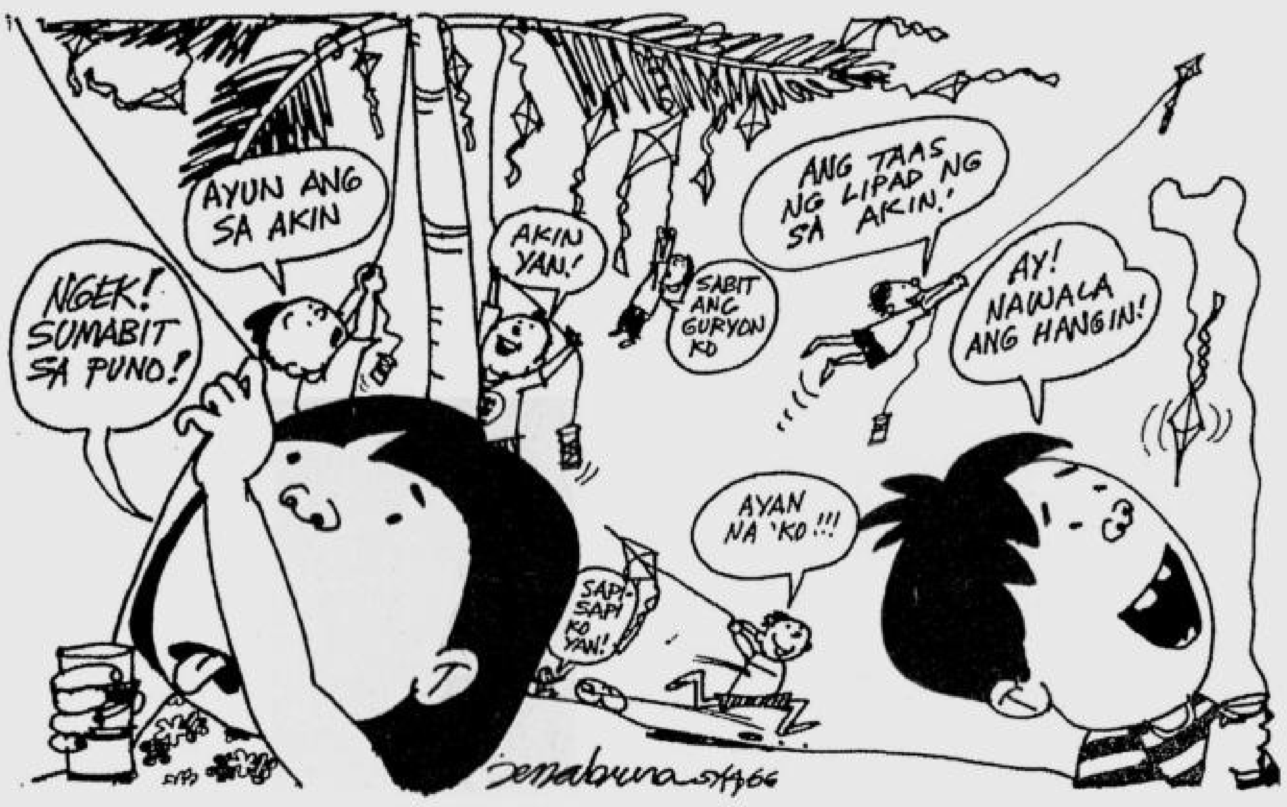
Now, says this actress known for her angsty roles, "my gauge for choosing roles is something that really challenges me, roles that I've never done before."

"She's So Hot" runs until the end of June at the new Teatrino Theater at the Promenade Mall in Greenhills. For details, please call tel. nos. 722-4532 or 0917-4386807.

Pinoy Nga!

by Jess Abrera

Bulador


NGEK! SUMABIT SA PUNO!
AYUN ANG SA AKIN
AKIN YAN!
SABIT ANG GURYON KO
ANG TAAS NG LIPAD NG SA AKIN!
AY! NAWALA ANG HANGIN!
SAPI-SAPI KO YAN!
AYAN NA 'KO!!!

This super...from page 6

New York, where she lived by herself in a basement apartment and found work as a secretary.

Girls' nights out and hours ogling products at the cosmetics counter were interspersed with the kind of experiences that made the native Nueva Ecijan grow up. In her three years abroad, Joson commuted alone on the subway late at night, and once ducked into a deli when she sensed that a stranger was following her home. At one point, she even had to phone her best friend Lisa to shovel her out of her basement apartment, as snow had trapped her in.

In 1996, Joson returned to the Philippines to pursue a career as a newscaster. "But nobody hired me," she says with a laugh, "because after three years in New York, I could no longer speak fluent Tagalog.' So she just picked up where she left off. Joson, who modeled briefly in college, began modeling again, appearing in numerous commercials. She was also a co-host of the talk show "Oh No, It's Johnny" for about three years.

Top secret tips

Makeup artists seem to have a liking for her. While Sarte encouraged her to become a makeup artist, Propaganda's Jay Lozano and Marlon Rivera were generous enough to share their top-secret tips and techniques with her. As for styling, it was Randy Ortiz who gave her confidence and that all-important push. "I think they saw me as their child," she shrugs. "So they decided to adopt me and take care of me."

In 2005, and after years of learning on the job from the pros, Joson went back to school, completing courses in fashion styling and fashion and fine art at Central St. Martins in London. She also finished a makeup course at the London Makeup Academy. "Magazines are okay, but I wanted to know if there are other forms of inspiration that I can draw from," she says. "I want to learn more. I don't want to just stay stuck in Manila. If I had to do it all over again, all the hard work that I went through just to go global, then I'd gladly go through it again."

For now, Manila is it for the self-described "super-domesticated" thirtysomething who shares her flat with two "roommates:" Ty, her chihuaua, and Princess, her poodle. "After a basement apartment, I think I deserve a nice place," she says of her modern and comfy digs. "I've been living on my own for five years, and all of this is from hard work. I come from a political family and I could have easily entered politics. But I chose to do it the hard way, and I wouldn't be here today if I didn't. It's all about working hard, following your heart and being passionate about what you believe in and what you love to do."

Free time will find her puttering around her apartment or shopping with her mom. And if you should chance upon Joson, note that one of the hottest makeup artists today hardly wears makeup at all. "People always ask me what brand I'm using, and I say none," says the flush-faced Joson whose regimen is simply a touch of her brows, eyelash curl, lip gloss, powder and sunscreen. "If you had to invest in anything, invest in your skin. Eat the right food, have a good lifestyle, respect your body. If you have good skin," she assures, "you don't need anything else."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Also a winner: Joson was responsible for Judy Ann Santos' winning look, left, for a Star Awards Night

Gathering...from page 5

dred suffering souls who would console each other in their shared journeys, what evolved was a documentation of individual inner journeys from devastation to healing, and then to compassion for others, and eventually service. We had all walked through the dark nights of our souls.

All the parents in the book are wounded healers. There is a notable pattern that emerges after one has adequately faced grief, as the spirit leads us to the next healing step—to light a lamp for others journeying in the darkness of their pain. I was frustrated many times at the snail's pace at which the articles were trickling in (it took almost three years to finally get this to bookstores). Then I realized that all the writers were travelling towards their own healing.

In the process of getting "Fallen Cradle" together, I also completed a diploma course in Family Ministry at the Center for Family Ministries (CEFAM). I entered school on the first anniversary of Xavier's death, and graduated on what would have been his 28th birthday.

From Xave's death, I have accepted that this broken heart will never mend. But it is encompassed by a new heart, big enough to enfold others who are hurting, and strengthened by a wellspring of joy that can only come from spirit.

The book "Fallen Cradle" is available at National Book Store. Support groups may be reached at 0920-5525952 for Healing Circles, 0917-8101582 for Compassionate Friends, 634-4622 or manaygina@hotmail.com for INA Foundation, and 813-0473 for Crusade Against Violence. Other contact numbers are in the book.

Nokia receives 6th Reader's Digest Platinum award

NOKIA, FOR THE 6TH CONSECUTIVE time, has been bestowed the prestigious Platinum award by the Reader's Digest Asia Trusted Brand Survey (formerly known as Superbrands).

Nokia's commitment to mobile technology has brought about many firsts in the industry to benefit and enhance the lifestyle of its consumers, allowing them to let others see, hear and experience the world they live in. This mobile experience enriches the way we communicate and entertain one another.

The Trusted Brand Survey was carried out in seven key Asian markets (Hong Kong, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, India and Thailand). Data collection was made via mailed questionnaires plus telephone survey, handled by Nielsen Media Research.

Reader's Digest assigned its award based on 7,000 responses to questionnaires and telephone interviews from across Asia. Consumers were asked to nominate their most Trusted Brand in 42 product categories. They were then asked to assign a score for each brand for the six core qualities: trustworthiness, credibility of image, quality, value, how well each brand understands consumers' needs, and its ability to innovate.

Reader's Digest Asia's Trusted Brands is a well-established survey that reveals the brands that appeal most to a representative cross section of Asia's consumers. It is the only survey of its kind in Asia that is trusted among the consumer market and boasts as a valuable annual reference for consumers on brand performance. Brands who have been consistently promoted over the years that have maintained their status as a "Trusted Brand" in this annual survey achieve Gold and Platinum awards by ratings given by the magazine's readers.

Reader's Digest has two categories of awards - Gold and Platinum. The Gold Trusted Brand award goes to brands that score well above their competitors, while the Platinum Trusted Brand award is given for truly outstanding achievement and goes to competitors that have scored at least double that of their nearest rival.

For the mobile/cellular phones category, Nokia was again the top choice of respondents across all seven markets. The company has been a seven-time recipient of the award and is also the first and only brand to receive its 6th consecutive Platinum award for outstanding brand performance in the mobile phone category in the Philippines. Nokia first received a Gold Reader's Digest award in 2001 and has constantly maintained its Platinum status since 2002.

Brands 2006

SHOWN are: Mark Cass, advertising director, SEA, Reader's Digest; Jim Plouffe, editor, Reader's Digest English Edition; Sandeep Khanna, marketing head, Nokia Philippines; Simon Cholmeley, regional advertising director, Reader's Digest Asia and Lilet Camara-Yan, advertising director, Reader's Digest Philippines.

PARTNERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Private business and national and local government officials banded together to show their support for protecting the environment during the commemoration of Earth Day at the Toyota Special Economic Zone (TSEZ) in Santa Rosa City, Laguna. Organized by Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) and the Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation Inc (TMPF), the celebration highlighted the importance of borderless cooperation among all sectors as essential for effective environmental preservation. Shown together in photo are (from left) TMP president Hiroshi Ito, TMPF president Dr. David Go, Department of Environment and Natural Resources undersecretary Ramon Jesus Paje, Philippine Economic Zone Authority director-general lawyer Lilia de Lima, and Santa Rosa City Mayor Joey Catindig.

Sony Ericsson unveils game change innovations for women's tennis

SONY ERICSSON AND THE SONY ERICSSON WTA Tour have announced the unveiling of a series of groundbreaking technological and television innovations that will enhance the sport for television and live viewers of women's professional tennis across the globe. The innovation changes includes: (1) pre-match player interviews so fans can hear what players are thinking as they are about to step on the court; (2) coaches' interviews during matches; (3) placing of wireless microphones on players during practice; (4) enhanced microphones on court and in the umpire's chair to bring the true sound of play to viewers at home; and (5) coordination with broadcasters to reduce on-air pre-match warm ups so that TV viewers are taken right to match action.

The announcement represents the fulfillment of one of the central promises of Sony Ericsson's landmark six-year, $88 million global title sponsorship of the WTA Tour signed in January 2005 – to make the sport more fan-friendly, interactive and innovative through the intersection of sport with technology. The new initiatives follow several technological and music innovations unveiled in 2005 by Sony Ericsson, including the introduction of live scoring and enhanced content to fans' mobile phones, the launch of the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour "Girls on Tour" website which includes player diaries, ring-tones, games and other unique content, and bringing of live Sony BMG music acts to select WTA Tour events.

"Sony Ericsson's sponsorship of women's tennis is all about using innovation to take the game to the next level of entertainment," said Dee Dutta, Sony Ericsson's CVP and head of global marketing. "Sport is entertainment, and the package of changes announced today is another important step in the direction of making the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour a more fan-friendly, interactive and exciting spectator sport. Watch this space as there is more exciting change to come."

"Our fans and broadcasters are telling us that they want to get closer to our players, and to feel the incredible athleticism and energy that is women's professional tennis," said Larry Scott, CEO of the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour. "Through our partnership with Sony Ericsson we are making that desire a reality. Fans watching at home on TV and at our tournaments will now be able to experience the excitement, sounds and speed of women's tennis like never before."

SHOWN are Zi Yan and Jie Zheng, grand slam winners of the women's doubles titles.

BPIFSB, Ibero Asistencia partner for Drive Your Dream Auto Loan Emergency Car Care Package

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK AND Ibero Asistencia recently sealed its partnership in bringing the Emergency Car Care Package for the BPI Family Drive Your Dream Auto Loan. BPI Family Savings Bank SVP for auto loans Dave Sarmiento and Ibero Asistencia Philippines general manager Tirso Abad inked the agreement that brings both institutions to bringing maximum road assistance benefits to BPI Family Drive Your Dream Auto Loan members.

Starting April , those who avail of the Drive Your Dream Auto Loan are automatically enrolled fro the package. The package includes services such as towing, on-site care repairs, hotel stays and transport to destination if one experiences car emergencies on the road. Such services will be rendered by Ibero Asistencia, the country's leading road assistance company and a subsidiary of Mapfre Asistencia, one of Europe's largest insurance and assistance conglomerates. This kind of service is an exclusive service from BPI Family Savings Bank since no other banks offer this kind of service.

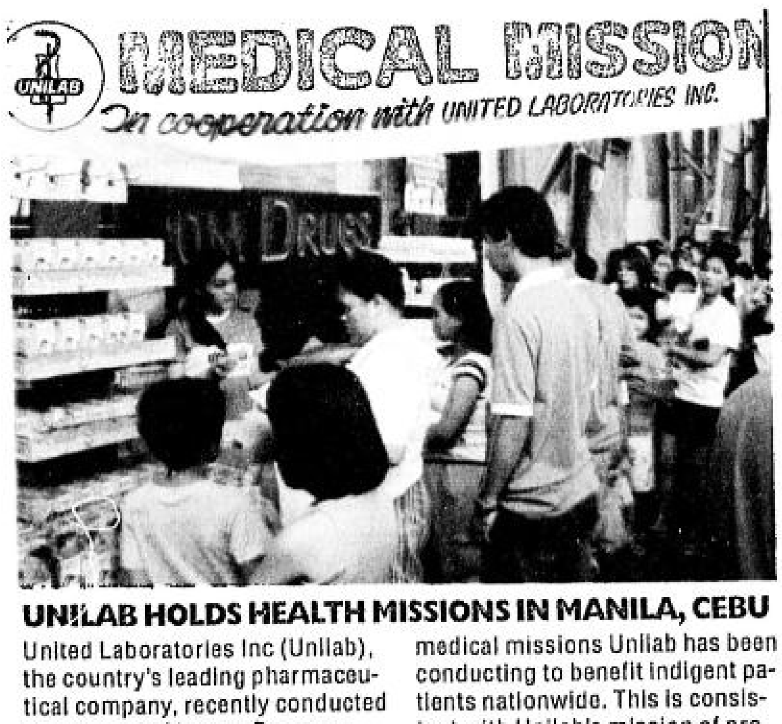
BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Drive Dream
IBERO ASISTENCIA

BPI Family Savings Bank and Ibero Asistencia partner for the Emergency Car Care Package that is offered upon availment of a Drive Your Dream Auto Loan with BPI Family Savings Bank starting April 1. Shown in photo are (from left) Jose Manuel Martinez Iglesias, Mapfre Asistencia regional director for Asia, Africa and Middle East; Tirso Abad, Ibero Asistencia Philippines general manager; Dave Sarmiento, BPI SVP for auto loans; and Nita Claravall, BPI SVP for marketing.

This new benefit only shows that BPI Family Savings Bank truly cares for your need as you "Get Started on Tomorrow" in getting your dream car. With this new service unique to BPI Family Savings Bank, Drive Your Dream Auto Loan clients will enjoy the assurance of having reliable roadside assistance when necessary. The package is co-terminus with the loan and is made available only for brand new cars. For more information, contact the Ibero Hotline at 752-2274. See flyers and print ads for more details.

CDO NUTRITION CAMPAIGN

Some 150 children from impoverished areas of Valenzuela City benefited from the second batch of a supplemental feeding program initiated by Odyssey Foundation Inc. On hand to give the certificates of completion during simple rites held April 8 were, from left: Dindo Danao, executive director of Odyssey Foundation; Marites Escarcha, AVP and assistant general manager of CDO-Foodsphere Inc and Raymund Santiago, corporate affairs officer of United Laboratories Inc. The advocacy program has touched the lives of over 600 poor kids since its launch in May last year.


MEDICAL MISSION
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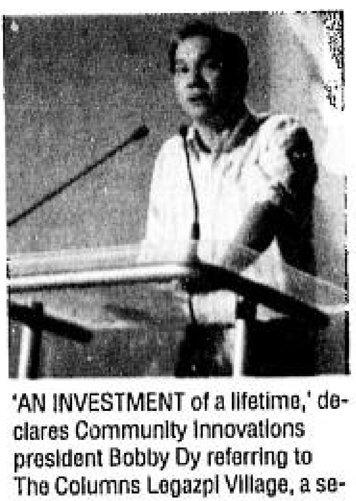

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Nokia receives 6th Reader's Digest Platinum award

NOKIA, FOR THE 6TH CONSECUTIVE time, has been bestowed the prestigious Platinum award by the Reader's Digest Asia Trusted Brand Survey (formerly known as Superbrands).

Nokia's commitment to mobile technology has brought about many firsts in the industry to benefit and enhance the lifestyle of its consumers, allowing them to let others see, hear and experience the world they live in. This mobile experience enriches the way we communicate and entertain one another.

The Trusted Brand Survey was carried out in seven key Asian markets (Hong Kong, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Taiwan, India and Thailand). Data collection was made via mailed questionnaires plus telephone survey, handled by Nielsen Media Research.

Reader's Digest assigned its award based on 7,000 responses to questionnaires and telephone interviews from across Asia. Consumers were asked to nominate their most Trusted Brand in 42 product categories. They were then asked to assign a score for each brand for the six core qualities: trustworthiness, credibility of image, quality, value, how well each brand understands consumers' needs, and its ability to innovate.

Reader's Digest Asia's Trusted Brands is a well-established survey that reveals the brands that appeal most to a representative cross section of Asia's consumers. It is the only survey of its kind in Asia that is trusted among the consumer market and boasts as a valuable annual reference for consumers on brand performance. Brands who have been consistently promoted over the years that have maintained their status as a "Trusted Brand" in this annual survey achieve Gold and Platinum awards by ratings given by the magazine's readers.

Reader's Digest has two categories of awards - Gold and Platinum. The Gold Trusted Brand award goes to brands that score well above their competitors, while the Platinum Trusted Brand award is given for truly outstanding achievement and goes to competitors that have scored at least double that of their nearest rival.

For the mobile/cellular phones category, Nokia was again the top choice of respondents across all seven markets. The company has been a seven-time recipient of the award and is also the first and only brand to receive its 6th consecutive Platinum award for outstanding brand performance in the mobile phone category in the Philippines. Nokia first received a Gold Reader's Digest award in 2001 and has constantly maintained its Platinum status since 2002.

SHOWN are: Mark Cass, advertising director, SEA, Reader's Digest; Jim Plouffe, editor, Reader's Digest English Edition; Sandeep Khanna, marketing head, Nokia Philippines; Simon Cholmeley, regional advertising director, Reader's Digest Asia and Lilet Camara-Yan, advertising director, Reader's Digest Philippines.

PARTNERS FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Private business and national and local government officials banded together to show their support for protecting the environment during the commemoration of Earth Day at the Toyota Special Economic Zone (TSEZ) in Santa Rosa City, Laguna. Organized by Toyota Motor Philippines Corporation (TMP) and the Toyota Motor Philippines Foundation Inc (TMPF), the celebration highlighted the importance of borderless cooperation among all sectors as essential for effective environmental preservation. Shown together in photo are (from left) TMP president Hiroshi Ito, TMPF president Dr. David Go, Department of Environment and Natural Resources undersecretary Ramon Jesus Paje, Philippine Economic Zone Authority director-general lawyer Lilia de Lima, and Santa Rosa City Mayor Joey Catindig.

Sony Ericsson unveils game change innovations for women's tennis

SONY ERICSSON AND THE SONY ERICSSON WTA Tour have announced the unveiling of a series of groundbreaking technological and television innovations that will enhance the sport for television and live viewers of women's professional tennis across the globe. The innovation changes includes: (1) pre-match player interviews so fans can hear what players are thinking as they are about to step on the court; (2) coaches' interviews during matches; (3) placing of wireless microphones on players during practice; (4) enhanced microphones on court and in the umpire's chair to bring the true sound of play to viewers at home; and (5) coordination with broadcasters to reduce on-air pre-match warm ups so that TV viewers are taken right to match action.

The announcement represents the fulfillment of one of the central promises of Sony Ericsson's landmark six-year, $88 million global title sponsorship of the WTA Tour signed in January 2005 – to make the sport more fan-friendly, interactive and innovative through the intersection of sport with technology. The new initiatives follow several technological and music innovations unveiled in 2005 by Sony Ericsson, including the introduction of live scoring and enhanced content to fans' mobile phones, the launch of the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour "Girls on Tour" website which includes player diaries, ring-tones, games and other unique content, and bringing of live Sony BMG music acts to select WTA Tour events.

"Sony Ericsson's sponsorship of women's tennis is all about using innovation to take the game to the next level of entertainment," said Dee Dutta, Sony Ericsson's CVP and head of global marketing. "Sport is entertainment, and the package of changes announced today is another important step in the direction of making the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour a more fan-friendly, interactive and exciting spectator sport. Watch this space as there is more exciting change to come."

"Our fans and broadcasters are telling us that they want to get closer to our players, and to feel the incredible athleticism and energy that is women's professional tennis," said Larry Scott, CEO of the Sony Ericsson WTA Tour. "Through our partnership with Sony Ericsson we are making that desire a reality. Fans watching at home on TV and at our tournaments will now be able to experience the excitement, sounds and speed of women's tennis like never before."

SHOWN are Zi Yan and Jie Zheng, grand slam winners of the women's doubles titles.

BPIFSB, Ibero Asistencia partner for Drive Your Dream Auto Loan Emergency Car Care Package

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK AND Ibero Asistencia recently sealed its partnership in bringing the Emergency Car Care Package for the BPI Family Drive Your Dream Auto Loan. BPI Family Savings Bank SVP for auto loans Dave Sarmiento and Ibero Asistencia Philippines general manager Tirso Abad inked the agreement that brings both institutions to bringing maximum road assistance benefits to BPI Family Drive Your Dream Auto Loan members.

Starting April , those who avail of the Drive Your Dream Auto Loan are automatically enrolled fro the package. The package includes services such as towing, on-site care repairs, hotel stays and transport to destination if one experiences car emergencies on the road. Such services will be rendered by Ibero Asistencia, the country's leading road assistance company and a subsidiary of Mapfre Asistencia, one of Europe's largest insurance and assistance conglomerates. This kind of service is an exclusive service from BPI Family Savings Bank since no other banks offer this kind of service.

BPI FAMILY SAVINGS BANK
Drive Dream
IBERO ASISTENCIA

BPI Family Savings Bank and Ibero Asistencia partner for the Emergency Car Care Package that is offered upon availment of a Drive Your Dream Auto Loan with BPI Family Savings Bank starting April 1. Shown in photo are (from left) Jose Manuel Martinez Iglesias, Mapfre Asistencia regional director for Asia, Africa and Middle East; Tirso Abad, Ibero Asistencia Philippines general manager; Dave Sarmiento, BPI SVP for auto loans; and Nita Claravall, BPI SVP for marketing.

This new benefit only shows that BPI Family Savings Bank truly cares for your need as you "Get Started on Tomorrow" in getting your dream car. With this new service unique to BPI Family Savings Bank, Drive Your Dream Auto Loan clients will enjoy the assurance of having reliable roadside assistance when necessary. The package is co-terminus with the loan and is made available only for brand new cars. For more information, contact the Ibero Hotline at 752-2274. See flyers and print ads for more details.

CDO NUTRITION CAMPAIGN

Some 150 children from impoverished areas of Valenzuela City benefited from the second batch of a supplemental feeding program initiated by Odyssey Foundation Inc. On hand to give the certificates of completion during simple rites held April 8 were, from left: Dindo Danao, executive director of Odyssey Foundation; Marites Escarcha, AVP and assistant general manager of CDO-Foodsphere Inc and Raymund Santiago, corporate affairs officer of United Laboratories Inc. The advocacy program has touched the lives of over 600 poor kids since its launch in May last year.

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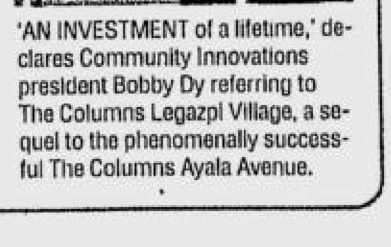

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